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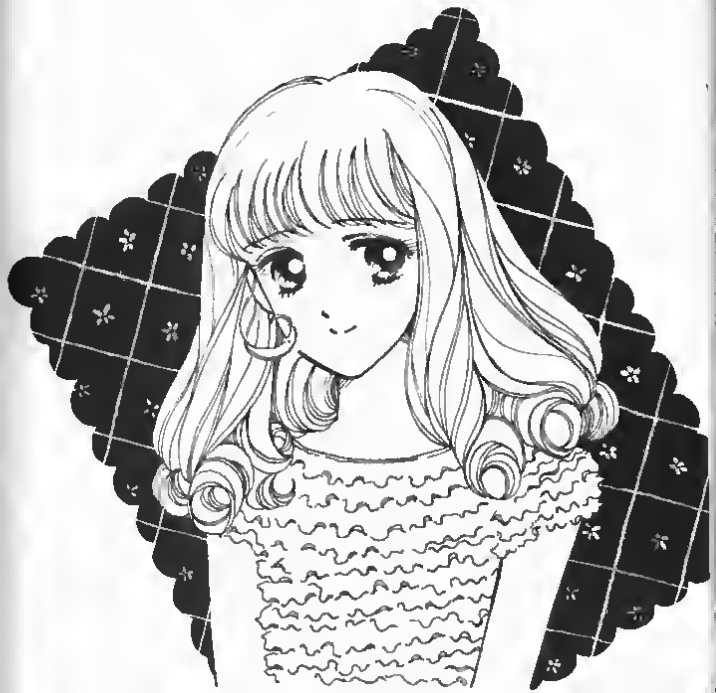
CALL ME PRINCESS

Tomoko Taniguchi
Writer and Artist

CPM®
MANGA
New York, New York

Contents

Character Profiles	6
Call Me Princess	8
About Tomoko Taniguchi	187



Character Profiles

MAKOTO TAKENOUCHI

Mako has looked up to her sister all of her life. She wants a life just like her sister and wishes that she could find a guy just like her brother-in-law to CALL HER PRINCESS.

RYU

Shin's brother has just moved back to Japan, but he seems shy and withdrawn. What secret could he be hiding?

SHIN

Mako's brother-in-law has been a loving and faithful husband to her sister and has shown great care for Mako through the years.

SHOKO

Mako's sister is a big-hearted, caring woman that wants the best for her sister.

YO TAKAYAMA

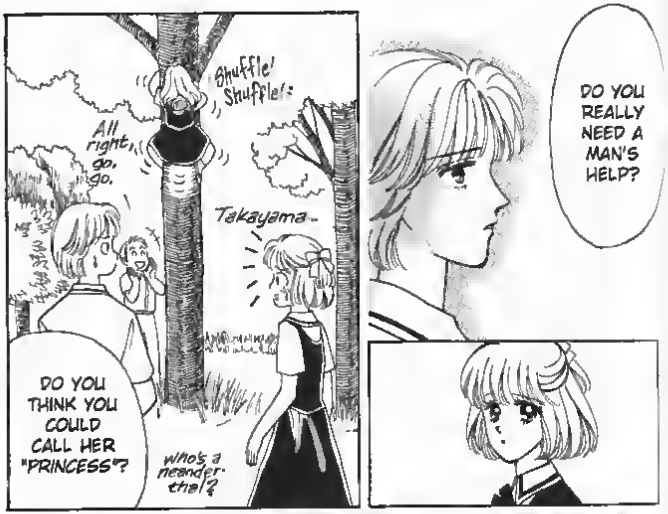
Mako's childhood friend has always been there for her, but feels a little intimidated by Mako s idea of a "perfect" man.

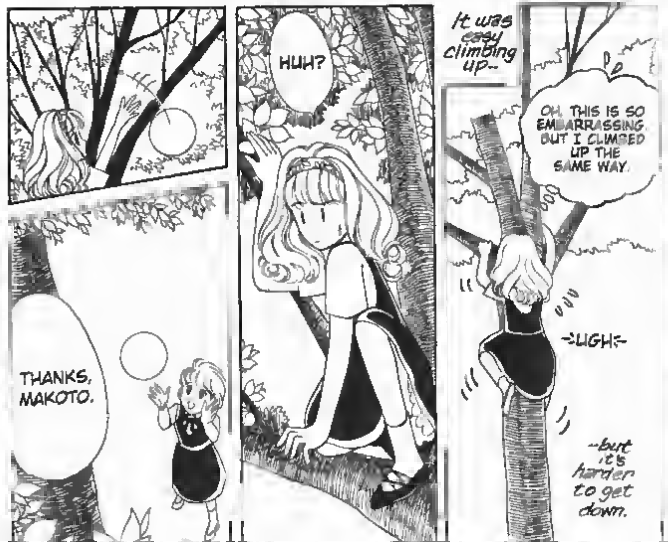
GIVE ME YOUR HAND--
-- PRINCESS.
thump
thump
HEE HEE
MAKO!!

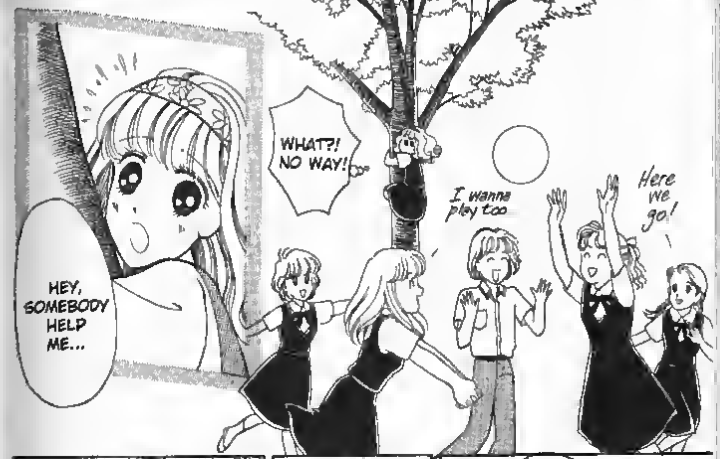
yikes!
OH, MAKO.
WERE YOU LOOKING FOR US UP THERE?
COME ON DOWN.
I'M SORRY, SIS...
MAKO!!
KYAAA
Whish!
Sniff!
MA...
Shoosh
HMP!
I WAS CAUGHT BY THE MAN--
--WHO IS NOW MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.
MY SISTER LOOKED LIKE A REAL PRINCESS AT HER WEDDING.

I WANT SOMEONE TO CALL ME "PRINCESS."
I WISH I HAD A BOYFRIEND WHO'S KIND AND RELIABLE LIKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.
SOMEONE WHO'S ALSO OPEN-MINDED AND WILL ALWAYS BE WITH ME AND SUPPORT ME
I WANT SOMEONE TO LOVE ME SO BAD.
AND MY BROTHER-IN-LAW IS VERY HANDSOME. HE'S THE PERFECT MAN.
DON'T DAYDREAM! IT'S STILL MORNING.
BONK!
Are you stupid? or what!?
Ouch!
IT'LL TAKE YOU HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS OF YEARS TO FIND THAT KIND OF MAN.
YO!!
Oops! What's she saying?!
YOU DON'T EVEN QUALIFY TO SHINE MY SHOES--
--YOU NEANDER-THAL!
WHAT-EVER!
THAT JERK...
WHEN I BECOME A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN--
Ping!
--I WON'T EVEN GIVE YOU THE TIME OF DAY.

I THINK YOU GUYS MAKE A PRETTY GOOD COUPLE.
YOU REALLY LIKE TAKAYAMA, DON'T YOU?
WHAT?! DON'T BE SILLY! WE'VE JUST LIVED IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD SINCE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
HE WAS SUPPOSED TO GO TO AN ALL BOYS SCHOOL, BUT DIDN'T. WE'VE ALWAYS GONE TO THE SAME SCHOOLS... UNTIL NOW.
DO YOU THINK HE EVER WANTED TO BE WITH YOU?
I don't think so.
HE KNOWS WHAT MY IDEAL MAN IS, SO HE'S SCARED OF ME.
Guys should call girls "Princess," like my brother does.
I want you to carry me.
OK!
Pick that flower for me.
I KNOW YO IS A REALLY GOOD GUY.
BUT EVERY TIME WE MEET HE SAYS SOMETHING MEAN TO ME
HE WON'T LET ME FEEL LIKE A PRINCESS--
yay!
Here you go
All right.
--LIKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW DOES
OH, NO. IT'S STUCK UP IN THE TREE
I'LL GET IT. I'M PRETTY GOOD AT CLIMBING TREES.
Really?!
POW


All right, go, go.
Shuffle! Shuffle!
Takayama-
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD CALL HER "PRINCESS"?
Who's a meanie-head?
DO YOU REALLY NEED A MAN'S HELP?

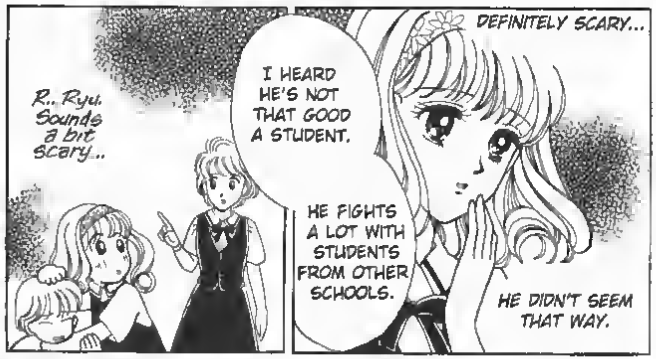

THANKS, MAKOTO.
HUH?
It was easy climbing up--
OH, THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING. BUT I CLIMBED UP THE SAME WAY.
-sIGH-
--but it's harder to get down.


HEY, SOMEBODY HELP ME...
WHAT?! NO WAY!
I wanna play too
Here we go!

HEY! I'M NOT A LOCUST HERE.
chirp chirp
Yo doesn't notice me either.
UH-OH!
SLIP
GIVE ME YOUR FOOT.
SLIP
WHAT?

LET ME HELP YOU DOWN...
BR.. BROTHER-IN-LAW!?
YIKES!
GULP
OOPS. I'M SO SORRY.
SCRITCH! SKRITCH!
IT'S ALL RIGHT. CALM DOWN.
MAKOTO!
OUCH!
SKRAB

IT'S LIKE SOME TIMESLIP..
IT CAN'T BE...!?
MY BROTHER-IN-LAW IS HERE, JUST LIKE OLD TIMES.
SO SIMILAR...
Blush!
HUH? OH, I'M SORRY.
Blip!
YIKES! BLOOD! DID I KICK YOU?
NO, THIS IS FROM BEFORE.
YOU WANT TO SEE THE NURSE?
NO. I'M FINE.
MAKOTO, WHO'S THAT GUY?
OH, NO, I pulled out his hair
I DON'T KNOW...
TAKAYAMA, IF YOU'D DONE THE SAME THING, YOU'D HAVE SCORED BIG POINTS. BUT IT'S TOO LATE NOW.
I DON'T WANT MAKOTO TO KICK ME.
That's why I call you a neanderthal! You really don't notice me?
Wait!
I KNOW HIM. THAT'S RYU. HE'S A SENIOR.


R.. Ryu. Sounds a bit scary..
I HEARD HE'S NOT THAT GOOD A STUDENT.
HE FIGHTS A LOT WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS.
DEFINITELY SCARY...
HE DIDN'T SEEM THAT WAY.

AND HE DOESN'T JUST LOOK LIKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW BUT--
--IT'S AS IF HE MIGHT SAY--
--"GIVE ME YOUR HAND, PRINCESS"--
--AT ANY MOMENT

IS HE GONNA BE OKAY?
I'M HOME
HEY, SIS!
HI, MAKO. LONG TIME, NO SEE.
HUH?! THOSE SHOES...
IS SIS HERE?

HELLO, MAKO. I'M HOME TOO.
HELLO, BROTHER. HOW HAVE YOU BEEN? IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE YOU WERE TRANSFERRED TO HAWAII.
WOW
WELL... YOU KNOW...
I BROUGHT YOU A CHERRY PIE.
REALLY?! I'M GONNA GO CHANGE.
ARE YOU GOING TO TAKE--
--YOUR YOUNGER BROTHER ALONG?
HUH? I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAVE A YOUNGER BROTHER!
When was he born?
DON'T YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU AND HE GAVE US FLOWERS AT OUR WEDDING?
NO...
THERE WAS A BOY THERE.
WH...
MY PARENTS DIVORCED RIGHT AFTER OUR WEDDING. MY MOTHER TOOK CARE OF MY YOUNGER BROTHER.
WE DIDN'T TRY TO EXPLAIN IT TO YOU BECAUSE YOU WERE SO YOUNG.
HE GOES TO SAME SCHOOL AS YOU.
WHAT DID YOU SAY?

I THINK I KNOW HIM
I SAW SOMEONE WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE YOU.
THAT'S HIM.
A YOUNGER BROTHER WHO LOOKS JUST LIKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW...
Tee Hee
HE MUST BE THE ONE.
HE MUST BE A VERY KIND AND WONDERFUL YOUNG MAN
Why do you have to be so happy?
Don't embarrass me
I... GUESS SO.
IS HE GOING BACK TO HAWAII WITH YOU?
thump! thump!
MY MOTHER PASSED AWAY, SO I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF HIM. BUT I DON'T KNOW IF HE WANTS TO COME WITH US OR NOT.
HIS MOTHER PASSED AWAY.
I FEEL SO SORRY FOR HIM. HE MUST BE PRETTY DEPRESSED NOW.
CAN I BRING HIM OVER TOMORROW?
OF COURSE. HE'S ALWAYS WELCOME HERE.
HE HAS A WONDERFUL BROTHER AND SISTER AND--
--THIS CUTE YOUNGER SISTER TO CHEER HIM UP!

MAKOTO, CAN YOU COME TO THE NURSE'S OFFICE WITH ME?
I HAVE A HEADACHE
NURSE'S OFFICE
SURE. ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
EXCUSE US.
HUH?
RYU!
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?!
But you got hurt...
DID I KICK YOU THAT BAD?
OH, THE GIRL IN THE TREE..
I'M TAKE-NOUCHI. I'M SHOKO'S SISTER.
SHOKO...
MY BROTHER'S WIFE?
YES. I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU YESTERDAY, BUT WE MET AT THEIR WEDDING.
IF YOU NEED ANYTHING, PLEASE DON'T HESITATE TO ASK US. WE'RE RELATIVES
I WISH YOU'D SAID THAT TEN YEARS AGO.

WHAT? HE SCARES ME. IS HE THE SAME RYU YOU TALKED TO YESTERDAY?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "RELATIVES?"
HE'S JUST LIKE THE RUMORS I HEARD ABOUT HIM. I'M SURE HE GOT BEAT UP IN A FIGHT.
WHY?
I THOUGHT HE WAS A NICE PERSON JUST LIKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.
BUT I GUESS HE'S NOT.
I'M HOME.
WOW! SMELLS GOOD!
I MADE THESE BECAUSE SHIN WILL BE BRINGING HIS YOUNGER BROTHER TONIGHT. MAKOTO, I NEED YOUR HELP.
IS THAT SO?
GOOD EVENING.
SHIN, COME IN. YOU MUST BE RYU. WELCOME.
HELLO.

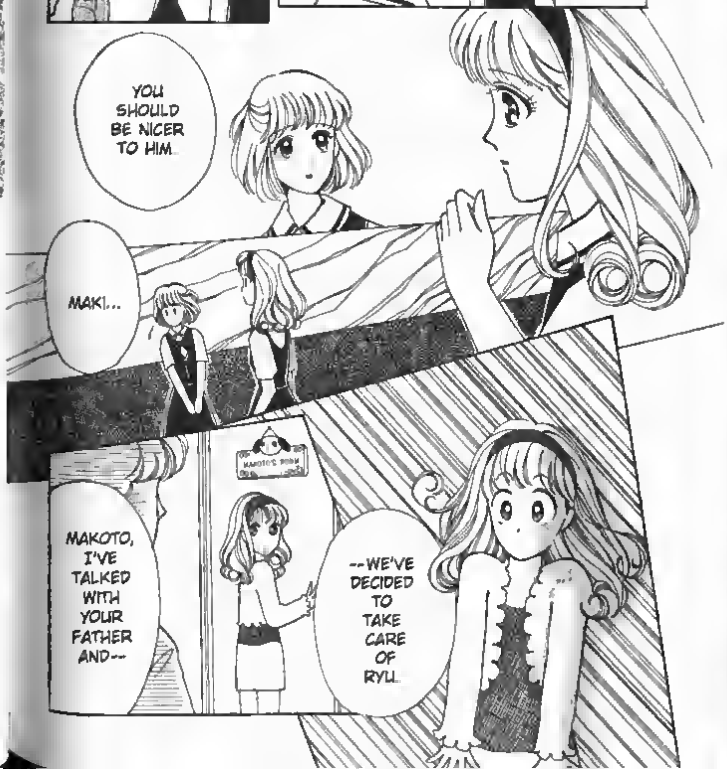
YOU GO TO THE SAME SCHOOL MAKOTO DOES.
MAKOTO, YOU'RE LUCKY TO HAVE ANOTHER BROTHER-IN-LAW.
I CAN'T TEACH HER ANYTHING. I COULDN'T GRADUATE BECAUSE I FAILED AND HAD TO STAY BACK.
IF WE KNEW THAT SOONER, HE COULD HAVE HELPED YOU STUDY, MAKOTO.
Unfortunately, he's going to Hawaii.
R... RYU!
You didn't need to say that. That's embarrassing.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO HIDE.
HE'S RIGHT. HE'S A VERY HONEST PERSON.
Yes.
Yes!
Yes!
I THOUGHT SO TOO BEFORE. HE'S REALLY HONEST.
BUT I STILL DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY HE SAID "I WISH YOU SAID THAT TEN YEARS AGO."
MY BROTHER'S GOING TO STAY AT OUR APARTMENT TONIGHT.
SHOKO, YOU STAY HERE TONIGHT, OKAY? YOU HAVEN'T STAYED HERE IN WHILE.
Thank you for everything.
IS EVERYTHING ALL RIGHT, SHOKO?
YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE CARE OF HIM?
I love Japanese Green Tea.
MOM, TO BE HONEST, I JUST DON'T KNOW.
BUT HE DOESN'T HAVE ANYWHERE ELSE TO GO.
WHAT ABOUT HIS FATHER?
HE'S RE-MARRIED AGAIN. I DON'T THINK HE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIM.
RYU HAS BEEN HAVING A VERY ROUGH TIME FOR THE LAST TEN YEARS. HE HATES HIS FATHER. HE SAYS HE NEVER WANTS TO SEE HIM AGAIN. BUT HIS FATHER SUPPORTS HIM.
WELL, I GUESS RYU DOESN'T THINK TOO HIGHLY OF SHIN EITHER?

I DIDN'T KNOW THAT--
--HE'S HAD A VERY ROUGH TIME...
I'M SORRY, RYU.
BOUNCE
--HE COULD HAVE CALLED ME "PRINCESS"
I'M SURE HE'S A NICE GUY. BECAUSE AT THAT TIME--
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?
THAT'S RYU, THE GUY WHO HELPED YOU BEFORE.
HEY!
Sorry.
HE'S SMILING.

WHAT? DID YOU FALL IN LOVE AT FIRST SIGHT?
NO, I DID NOT.
SMAK!
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
OOPS, SORRY.
DID THAT HURT?

TOK-TOK TOK-TOK-TOK-TOK
huh?

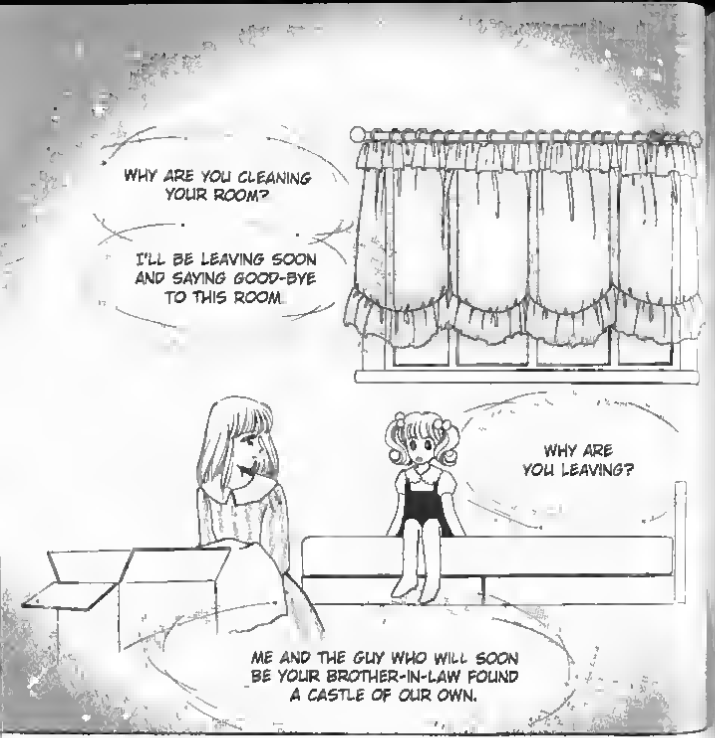
WHAT HAPPENED TO TAKAYAMA? HE'S LOOKS LIKE HE'S GONNA CRY.
DID I HIT HIM THAT HARD?


YOU SHOULD BE NICER TO HIM.
MAKI...
MAKOTO'S ROOM
MAKOTO, I'VE TALKED WITH YOUR FATHER AND---
--WE'VE DECIDED TO TAKE CARE OF RYU.

WHAT!? WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DON'T THINK SHOKO CAN HANDLE HIM.
IT WOULD BE TOO MUCH. AND THEY'LL HAVE THEIR OWN CHILDREN TO TAKE CARE OF SOON
RYU'S KIND OF DIFFICULT TO TAKE CARE OF. AND RYU WANTS TO GRADUATE HIGH SCHOOL HERE SO...
CAN WE GET ALONG AND LIVE TOGETHER....?
MAKO!
I THINK I CAN DO IT. I KNOW HE'S REALLY A NICE GUY.
HERE

YO?
THANKS. I'LL PUT IT IN MY ROOM
YOU TOLD ME TO GET YOU THIS FLOWER WHEN WE WE'RE KIDS.
I COULDN'T GET IT BACK THEN, BUT I GOT IT FOR YOU NOW.
SEE YA.
MAKO, LET'S GO DO SOME-THING.
I'M SORRY. I'M IN A HURRY. SEE YOU.
MY NEW FAMILY IS COMING OVER TODAY.
RYU'S A RELATIVE!

THAT'S ALL YOUR STUFF?
I HAVE A FEW MORE THINGS THAT WILL BE SENT.
RYU, ISN'T THERE SOMETHING YOU'D LIKE TO SAY?
THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME STAY HERE.
FROM NOW ON, HE'S PART OF THIS FAMILY.


WHY ARE YOU CLEANING YOUR ROOM?
I'LL BE LEAVING SOON AND SAYING GOOD-BYE TO THIS ROOM.
WHY ARE YOU LEAVING?
ME AND THE GUY WHO WILL SOON BE YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW FOUND A CASTLE OF OUR OWN.

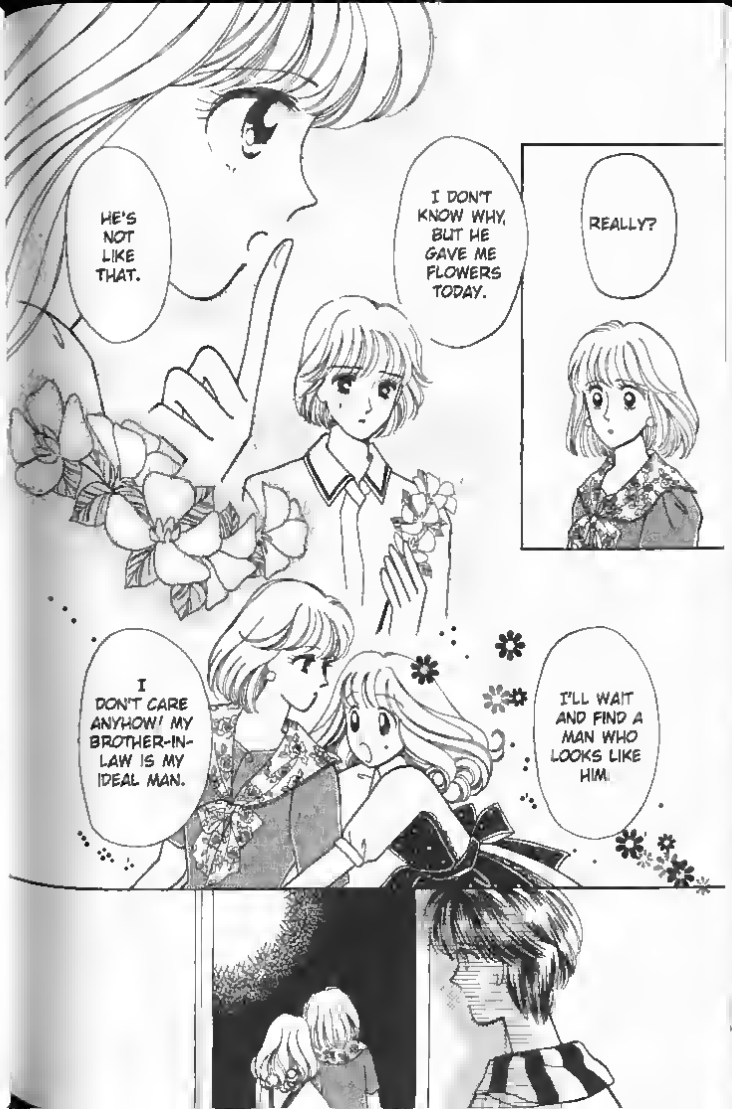
OMAKE 1. THANK YOU VERY, VERY MUCH FOR READING MY FIRST ENGLISH COMIC!! THIS HAS ALWAYS BEEN ONE OF MY BIG DREAMS - HAVING ONE OF MY MANGA PUBLISHED ABROAD, BECAUSE I HAVE MANY FRIENDS IN MANY COUNTRIES AS I STUDIED ENGLISH BEFORE BECOMING A CARTOONIST. I STAYED IN ANN ARBOR, MICHIGAN FOR ABOUT ONE YEAR AND I HAVE VISITED MANY OTHER STATES, SUCH AS CALIFORNIA, NEW YORK, OHIO AND WASHINGTON. I HAVE ALSO BEEN TO CANADA. SOMEDAY, I HOPE THAT MY FRIENDS WILL BE ABLE TO FIND MY BOOK ANYWHERE ON EARTH! I WOULD BE SO HAPPY IF READERS OF ***CALL ME PRINCESS*** WOULD WRITE ME LETTERS OR E-MAIL TO LET ME KNOW HOW YOU LIKE MY BOOK! THEN YOU WILL ALL BE MY NEW FRIENDS!! SEND LETTERS TO ME CARE OF CPM MANGA. MY E-MAIL ADDRESS IS ***RICHTOMO@H9.DION.NE.JP.*** PLEASE SEND TEXT ONLY AS I CAN'T OPEN PICTURES AND GRAPHICS. AND OF COURSE, PLEASE FEEL FREE TO WRITE TO ME IN ENGLISH.
- TOMOKO TANIGUCHI, YOKOHAMA, JAPAN, JUNE 7, 1999

click!
KA-CHA!
THIS USED TO BE SHOKO'S ROOM. IT'S YOURS NOW.
THIS IS A GOOD ROOM. IT FACES SOUTH.
TEN YEARS AGO... SIS LEFT THIS ROOM, FULL OF HAPPINESS..
I CAN STILL FEEL MY SISTER'S HAPPINESS.
I USED TO PLAY IN THIS ROOM BY MYSELF.
EVERYTIME I COME INTO THIS ROOM...

I WON'T BE ABLE TO COME INTO THIS ROOM ANYTIME I WANT ANYMORE.
Because of him...
WE STILL HAVE HER BED AND DESK.
YOU CAN USE THEM IF YOU LIKE.
CLICK

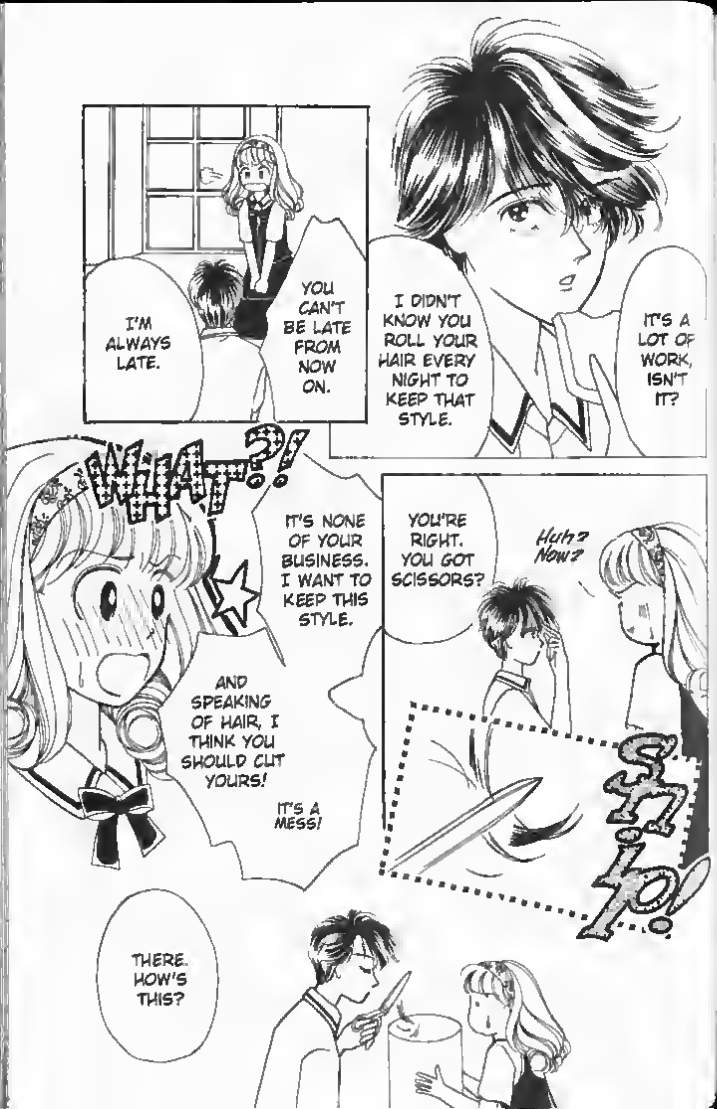
WHAT'S THAT? OH... SHOKO HASN'T TAKEN HER GLOW-IN-THE-DARK STARS OFF YET.
She spelled out Shin's name on the ceiling
Oh, yeah I forgot about that
HOW WAS THE ROOM, RYU?
DO YOU LIKE IT?
YOUR NAME WAS SPELLED OUT IN STARS ON THE CEILING.
? What?!

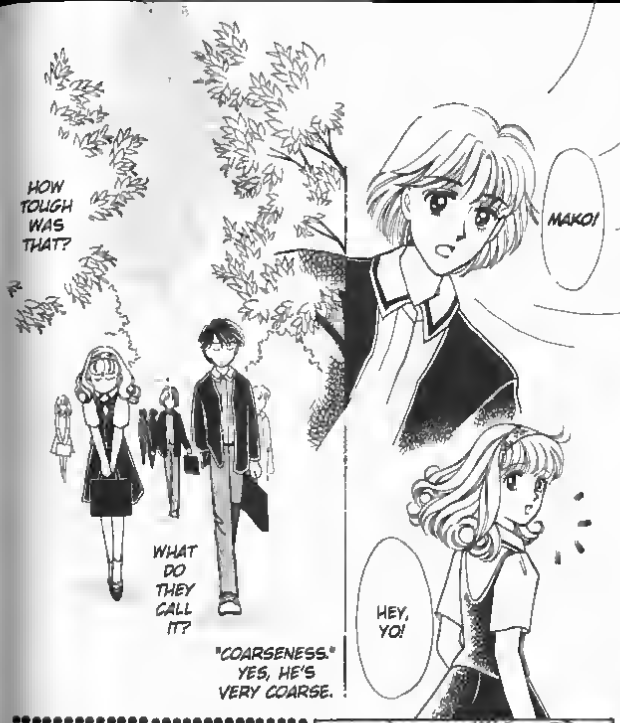
KYAAHH
NOOOOOO
You didn't take them off?
TOK! TOK
It's embarrassing...
But, nostalgic...
MY BROTHER-IN-LAW IS MY SISTER'S SHINING STAR.
BACK THEN AND STILL NOW.
MAKO, WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?
I FIRST MET SHIN WHEN I WAS ABOUT YOUR AGE
HOW ABOUT YO? DO YOU GUYS STILL SEE EACH OTHER?


HE'S NOT LIKE THAT.
I DON'T KNOW WHY, BUT HE GAVE ME FLOWERS TODAY.
REALLY?
I DON'T CARE ANYHOW! MY BROTHER-IN-LAW IS MY IDEAL MAN.
I'LL WAIT AND FIND A MAN WHO LOOKS LIKE HIM.

DID YOU REALLY STICK THOSE UP THERE?
I WORKED HARD ON THIS. I HAD TO STACK CHAIRS TO DO IT.
THESE TWO ARE MY IDEA OF THE PERFECT MARRIED COUPLE.
MY BIG BROTHER AND SISTER.
HE TREATS MY SISTER LIKE A PRINCESS.
AND HE'S SO LUCKY TO HAVE SOMEONE LIKE MY SISTER.
THE DAY I MEET A MAN LIKE HIM--
--WILL BE THE DAY I BECOME A PRINCESS.
MAKO, DO YOU WANT ANY MELON?
YEAH.
CLICK!
CLICK!
SHOCK!

thump! thump!
WHAT?
IS SOME-THING WRONG ?!
Yikes!
I FORGOT ABOUT THIS MASK.
STICK
OOOPS...
OUCH!
Nooooooo!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS!
A PRINCESS NEVER SHOWS HER FACE LIKE THAT.
I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A PRINCESS YET.
A PRINCESS HAS TO BE PROPER IN FRONT OF OTHER PEOPLE.
I HAVE TO BE CAREFUL.
BUT I DON'T FEEL COMFORTABLE AROUND HIM.
BUT STILL...
TOK TOK TOK
RYU, ARE YOU READY?
WE SHOULD GET GOING.
WHAT? LEAVE NOW?
CHOMP! CHOMP!
WE'LL BE LATE


I'M ALWAYS LATE.
YOU CAN'T BE LATE FROM NOW ON.
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU ROLL YOUR HAIR EVERY NIGHT TO KEEP THAT STYLE.
IT'S A LOT OF WORK, ISN'T IT?
What?!
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS. I WANT TO KEEP THIS STYLE.
AND SPEAKING OF HAIR, I THINK YOU SHOULD CUT YOURS!
IT'S A MESS!
YOU'RE RIGHT. YOU GOT SCISSORS?
Huh? Now?
Snip!
THERE. HOW'S THIS?

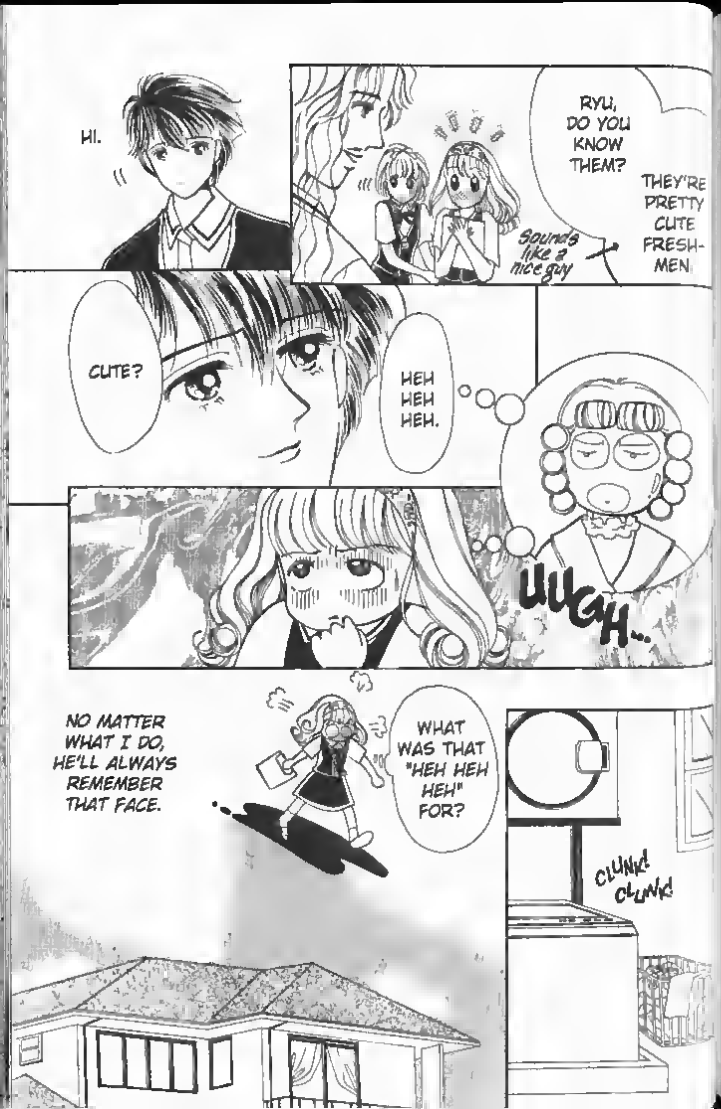


*OHAYO MEANS "GOOD MORNING" IN JAPANESE

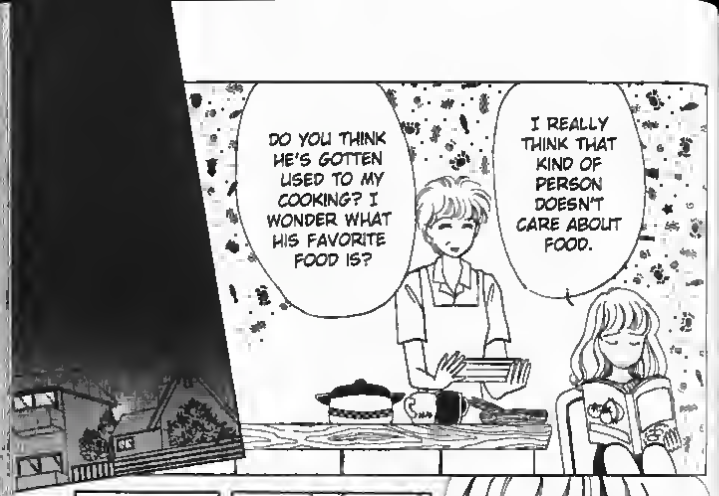
RYU, THIS IS YO TAKAYAMA. HE'S FROM OUR NEIGHBORHOOD.
HI.
RYU! YOU'RE EARLY THIS MORNING. HOW UNUSUAL!
WHAT'S THAT? HE NEVER SMILES LIKE THAT AT HOME.
Ha Ha I like to keep you guessing.
Did you cut your hair?
I THINK THAT'S GOOD.
IT'S KIND OF DANGEROUS TO LIVE WITH SOMEONE WHO'S TOO FRIENDLY TOO FAST.
WHAT!? YO, WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?!
dap!
IT'S TRUE!
I REALLY--
--WORRY ABOUT YOU.

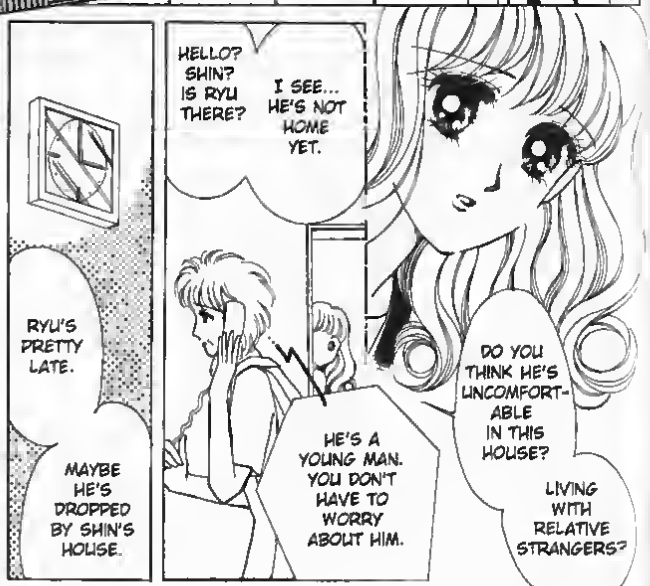
TH--
THANK YOU FOR WORRYING ABOUT ME.
BUT YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE TO WORRY.
I'VE NEVER SEEN HIM--
--LIKE THIS BEFORE.

HOW STRANGE.
MAKOTO! LOOK!
Facial hair?!
LOOK AT HIS FRIENDS.
HE'S WITH THOSE SCARY GUYS.

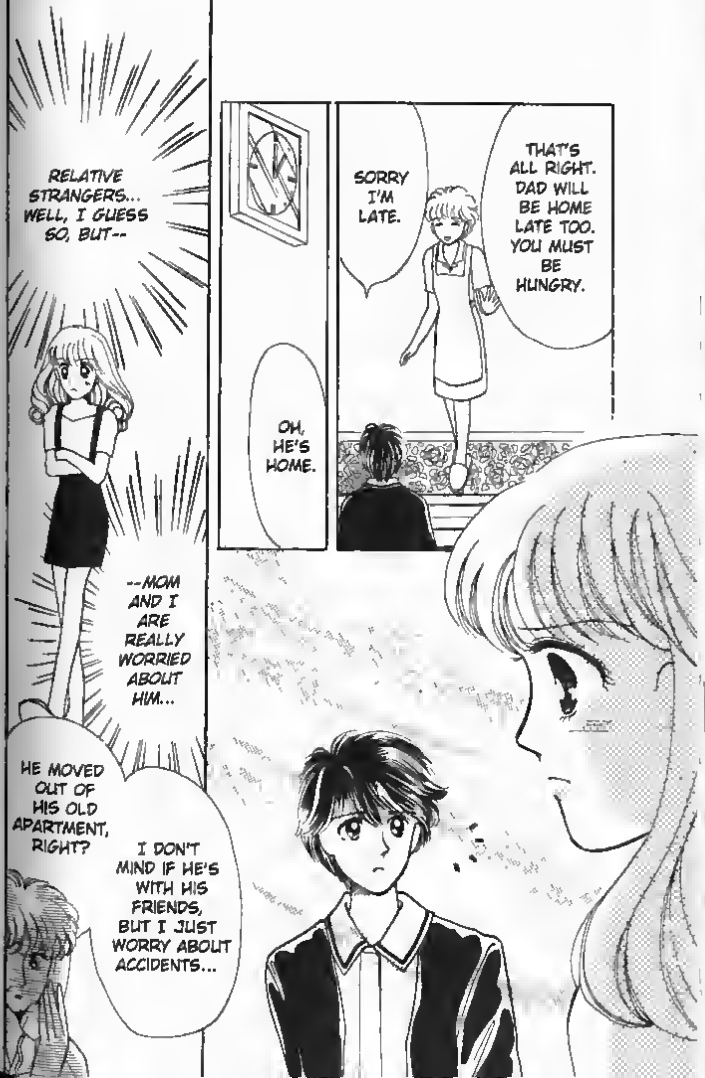

HI.
RYU, DO YOU KNOW THEM?
THEY'RE PRETTY CUTE FRESHMEN.
Sounds like a nice guy
CUTE?
HEH HEH HEH.
UUGH...
NO MATTER WHAT I DO, HE'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER THAT FACE.
WHAT WAS THAT "HEH HEH HEH" FOR?
CLUNK! CLUNK!

Hmmm... Hmmm... Hmmm...
WHAT?!
KIIYAAAAAA
HOW BORING. MOM, WHERE'S THE REMOTE?
CLICK!
CLICK!
munch! munch! munch!
SHOCK!
FREEEZE!
TOK! TOK! TOK! TOK! TOK! TOK!
M--MY LEG IS ASLEEP.
I think I saw something I shouldn't have. No, I didn't see anything. Yes.


DO YOU THINK HE'S GOTTEN USED TO MY COOKING? I WONDER WHAT HIS FAVORITE FOOD IS?
I REALLY THINK THAT KIND OF PERSON DOESN'T CARE ABOUT FOOD.


RYU'S PRETTY LATE.
MAYBE HE'S DROPPED BY SHIN'S HOUSE.
HELLO? SHIN? IS RYU THERE?
I SEE... HE'S NOT HOME YET.
HE'S A YOUNG MAN. YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT HIM.
DO YOU THINK HE'S UNCOMFORTABLE IN THIS HOUSE?
LIVING WITH RELATIVE STRANGERS?

OH, HE'S HOME.
SORRY I'M LATE.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. DAD WILL BE HOME LATE TOO. YOU MUST BE HUNGRY.


RELATIVE STRANGERS... WELL, I GUESS SO, BUT--
--MOM AND I ARE REALLY WORRIED ABOUT HIM...
HE MOVED OUT OF HIS OLD APARTMENT, RIGHT?
I DON'T MIND IF HE'S WITH HIS FRIENDS, BUT I JUST WORRY ABOUT ACCIDENTS...

WE WERE WORRIED ABOUT YOU!
I DON'T HAVE THE PHONE NUMBER HERE.
WHAT YOU DO WHEN YOU'RE OUT IS YOUR BUSINESS, BUT YOU SHOULD AT LEAST CALL US!!
MAKO, IT'S NO PROBLEM.

OMAKE 2

I REALLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF MS. COLLEEN DORAN! SHE GAVE ME THE CHANCE THAT LEAD ME TO THIS DREAM COMING TRUE! (I WILL WRITE MORE ABOUT THIS DREAM NEXT ISSUE!) I ALSO APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS OF MY EDITOR, MR. C.B. CEBULSKI, WHO FOUND ONE OF MY ILLUSTRATIONS (IN COLLEEN'S BOOK) AND ALSO HELPED MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE! I AM ALWAYS HELPED OUT BY MY FRIENDS. I TREASURE THEM!

I USED TO BE A FAN OF JONATHAN BRANDIS

JONATHAN BRANDIS

*AN OLD TEEN ACTOR

HE REALLY MAKES ME SO UPSET.
I DON'T LIKE HIS ATTITUDE.
MY MOM TRIES TO MAKE HIM WHATEVER HE LIKES FOR DINNER.
BUT HE'S STILL SO CURT WITH HER.
AND I CAN'T EVEN RELAX IN MY OWN HOME WITH HIM AROUND.

OMAKE 3

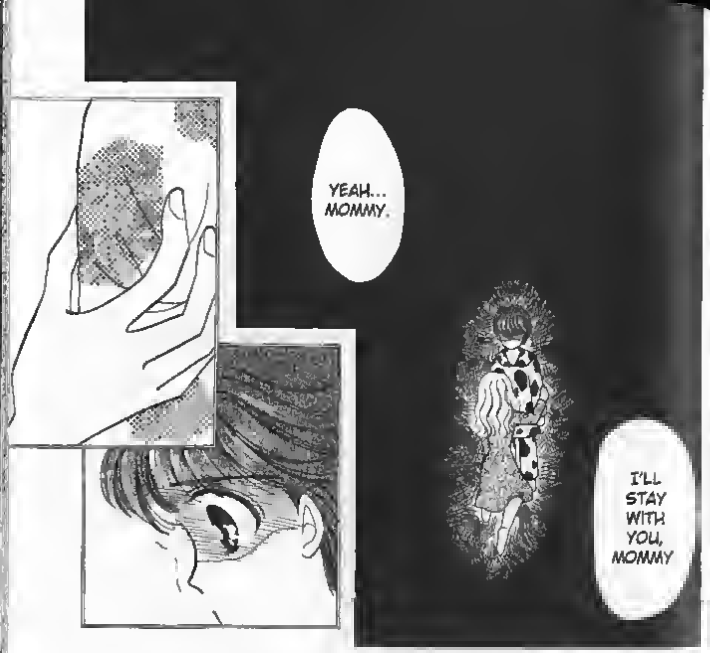
NINE OF MY COMICS SERIES HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN JAPAN SO FAR. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL ALL LIKE TO READ MY OTHER STORIES TOO. AGAIN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR PICKING UP ***CALL ME PRINCESS*** AND HOPEFULLY I WILL SEE YOU AGAIN SOON IN THE NEXT ISSUE!

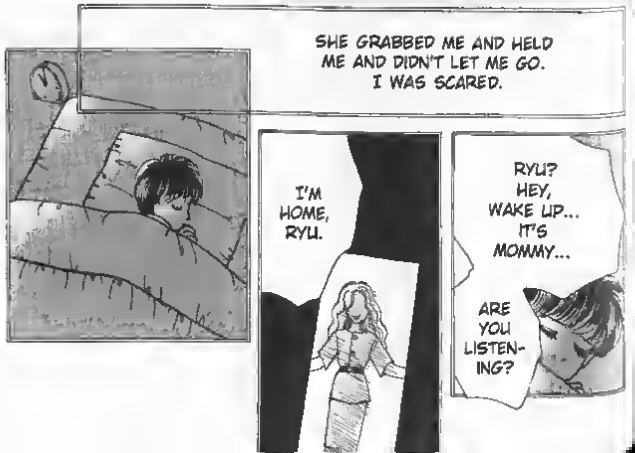
THIS IMAGE IS FROM ***POPCORN ROMANCE***, AVAILABLE NOW FROM CPM MANGA.

What is she, a monkey?
Upset!?
SHE GETS MAD AND TAKES IT OUT ON YOU.
THAT'S WHY YOU'RE ASKING ME TO STOP, RIGHT?
H...He got me.
N...NO IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
YOU'RE YO, RIGHT?
DO YOU KNOW WHO MAKO'S IDEAL MAN IS?
IT'S HER BROTHER-IN-LAW, YOUR BROTHER...

MY BROTHER IS THE SHINING STAR IN THE LIVES OF MAKO—
—AND MY SISTER-IN-LAW.
I THINK YOU SHOULD BE WORRIED ABOUT HER, NOT ABOUT ME.
WHO'S THAT KID?
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU HAVE AN OLDER BROTHER.

HE GOT ALL THE HAP-PINESS.
HE'S SO LUCKY.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
HEH HEH HEH.
YOU SOUND LIKE A COUNTRY SONG.
RYU.
DADDY DOESN'T WANT TO BE WITH MOMMY ANYMORE.
RYU, WILL YOU STAY WITH MOMMY?
DADDY'S GONNA HAVE A NEW FAMILY.
HOW ABOUT BIG BROTHER?
HE CHOSE DADDY.
BUT HE'LL SOON HAVE A WIFE TOO.
BUT MOMMY HAS NOBODY. ONLY YOU, RYU.


YEAH... MOMMY.
I'LL STAY WITH YOU, MOMMY


SHE GRABBED ME AND HELD ME AND DIDN'T LET ME GO. I WAS SCARED.
I'M HOME, RYU.
RYU? HEY, WAKE UP... IT'S MOMMY...
ARE YOU LISTEN-ING?

DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHY I WORK THIS LATE?
YOU'RE BECOMING MORE LIKE YOUR FATHER.
MOMMY SAID SHE WANTED TO BE WITH ME.
I SHOULD HAVE LET HIM TAKE YOU.

MOMMY, I'M GOING TO SCHOOL NOW.
ZZZZ
I'VE SOMETIMES MET MY DAD AND MY BROTHER--
--AND THEY'VE ALWAYS LOOKED HAPPY...

MY SISTER-IN-LAW IS A VERY KIND AND SWEET PERSON.
IF MY BROTHER DIDN'T CHOOSE DAD FIRST...
HE LIVES WITH HIS WIFE NOW, SO DAD SHOULD HAVE TAKEN ME WITH HIM TOO.
WHY?
WHY DOES ONLY MY BROTHER GET TO BE HAPPY?
MAKO, YOU'RE COMING HOME FROM SCHOOL NOW?
I SAW RYU EARLIER WITH SOME OF HIS FRIENDS. HE MAY BE LATE AGAIN TONIGHT.
WHAT?! I'LL KILL HIM!!
NO, MY MOM ASKED ME TO BUY SOME THINGS SHE FORGOT FOR DINNER TONIGHT. IT'S FOR RYU.
BUT I DON'T KNOW WHEN HE'LL BE HOME.
MARUKOSHI
MAKO, YOUR SISTER AND BROTHER-IN-LAW ARE BACK NOW, RIGHT?
YEAH, BUT THEY CAN ONLY STAY A WEEK AND THEN THEY GO BACK TO HAWAII.
MAKO, IS YOUR BROTHER-IN-LAW STILL THE ONLY ONE FOR YOU? EVEN NOW?

6 GRADER
LET ME GO.
YO...
LEAVE ME ALONE!
CAN'T YOU HEAR ME?
YO...
SMAK!
MAUKUKOSH
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO BECOME THE IDEAL BOYFRIEND FOR YOU.
I WANT A MAN LIKE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW.
IT'S NOT LIKE THAT.
CAN'T I BE THE ONE?

I'M SORRY.
I'VE LOST HER YET AGAIN.
I... I'M SO SORRY. FORGIVE ME.
YOU BROKE MY EGGS!
W... WHY... HAS--
--YO CHANGED? WHY IS HE DIFFERENT?
HUFF... PUFF...
I'M HOME. WHAT?
HI.
YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME HOME LATE TODAY.
I WAS OUT SHOPPING... FOR YOU!
HUH? MAKO, THE EGGS ARE BROKEN!
OH, YEAH. I MET YO TODAY.
I THINK HE LIKES YOU.

RYU, WHAT DID YOU SAY TO YO?!
NOTHING.
EVER SINCE YO MET THIS GUY, HE'S BEEN ACTING STRANGE.
RYU... YOU LOOK JUST LIKE YOUR BROTHER WHEN HE WAS YOUNGER, BUT--
I CAN'T STAND THIS.
I WANT MY REGULAR LIFE BACK.

--YOU'RE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON.

WH... WHAT?!

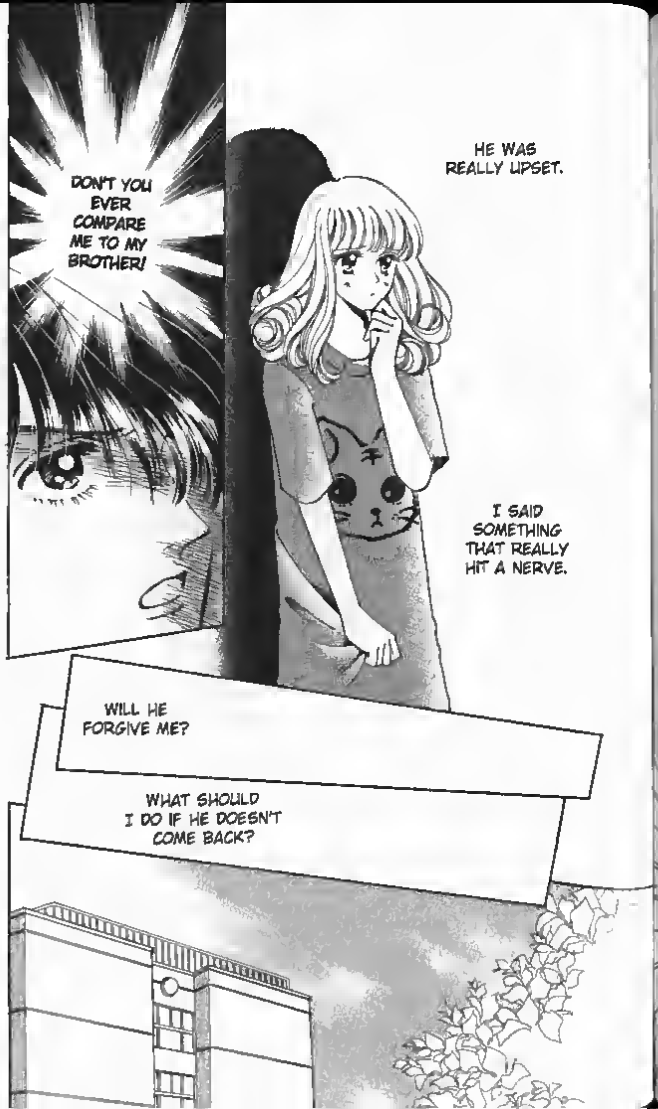
SHICK
DON'T YOU EVER COMPARE ME TO MY BROTHER!

B.. BUT IT'S TRUE.
YOUR BROTHER IS KIND AND NICE TO EVERYONE.
M... MAKOTO, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!
RYU, I'M SORRY.

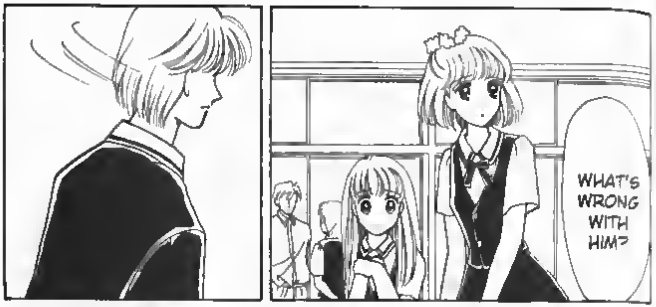
SLAM!
OH, NO. WHAT SHOULD I DO? HE LEFT.
I...
SLIDE
I CAN'T STAND THIS ANYMORE.
RYU? RYU!

THE MOON IS SHINING PRETTY FAR UP THERE TONIGHT.
I COME HOME LATE LIKE THIS--
--BUT THERE'S NOBODY HOME TO SCOLD ME.
JINGLE!
THIS IS NORMAL FOR ME.
WHAT?
MOM SHOULD BE WORKING NOW.
BUT WHY ARE THE LIGHTS ON?
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU IF YOU'RE GOING TO BE LATE--
--YOU COULD AT LEAST CALL.

RYU!
HUH? ARE YOU SLEEPING?
DON'T YOU HAVE TO GET BACK TO YOUR NEW HOME?
YOU SHOULD TRY AND BE GOOD FOR AT LEAST A FEW WEEKS, OR THEY'RE GONNA KICK YOU OUT
YOU SHOULD GO HOME NOW.
Hey, Ryu!
WHAT? MAKOTO AND RYU GOT INTO A FIGHT?
AND HE HASN'T COME HOME YET?
HE'LL BE OK. HE'S NOT A CHILD. HE'S A TOUGH YOUNG MAN.
HE'S PROBABLY STAYING AT A FRIEND'S HOUSE
YEAH, YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT. HE'S COME HOME PRETTY LATE BEFORE SO--
--I GUESS IT'S NOT UNUSUAL FOR HIM TO GO OUT LATE AT NIGHT.
I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT WITH HIM, BUT..


DON'T YOU EVER COMPARE ME TO MY BROTHER!
HE WAS REALLY UPSET.
I SAID SOMETHING THAT REALLY HIT A NERVE.
WILL HE FORGIVE ME?
WHAT SHOULD I DO IF HE DOESN'T COME BACK?

HUH? MAKOTO, YOU LOOK DIFFERENT!!
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE DOING MY HAIR.
IF I DON'T ROLL MY HAIR, IT'S STRAIGHT
HUH? OH... HI, TAKAYAMA.
SHOCK
HI, MAKI
OOPS, I FORGOT ABOUT THAT.
YO WAS ACTING ALL WEIRD YESTERDAY.


WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIM?

WAIT A SEC.. DOES YOUR NOT DOING YOUR HAIR HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH TAKAYAMA?
MAKI, I WANT TO ASK YOU SOMETHING.
WHAT?

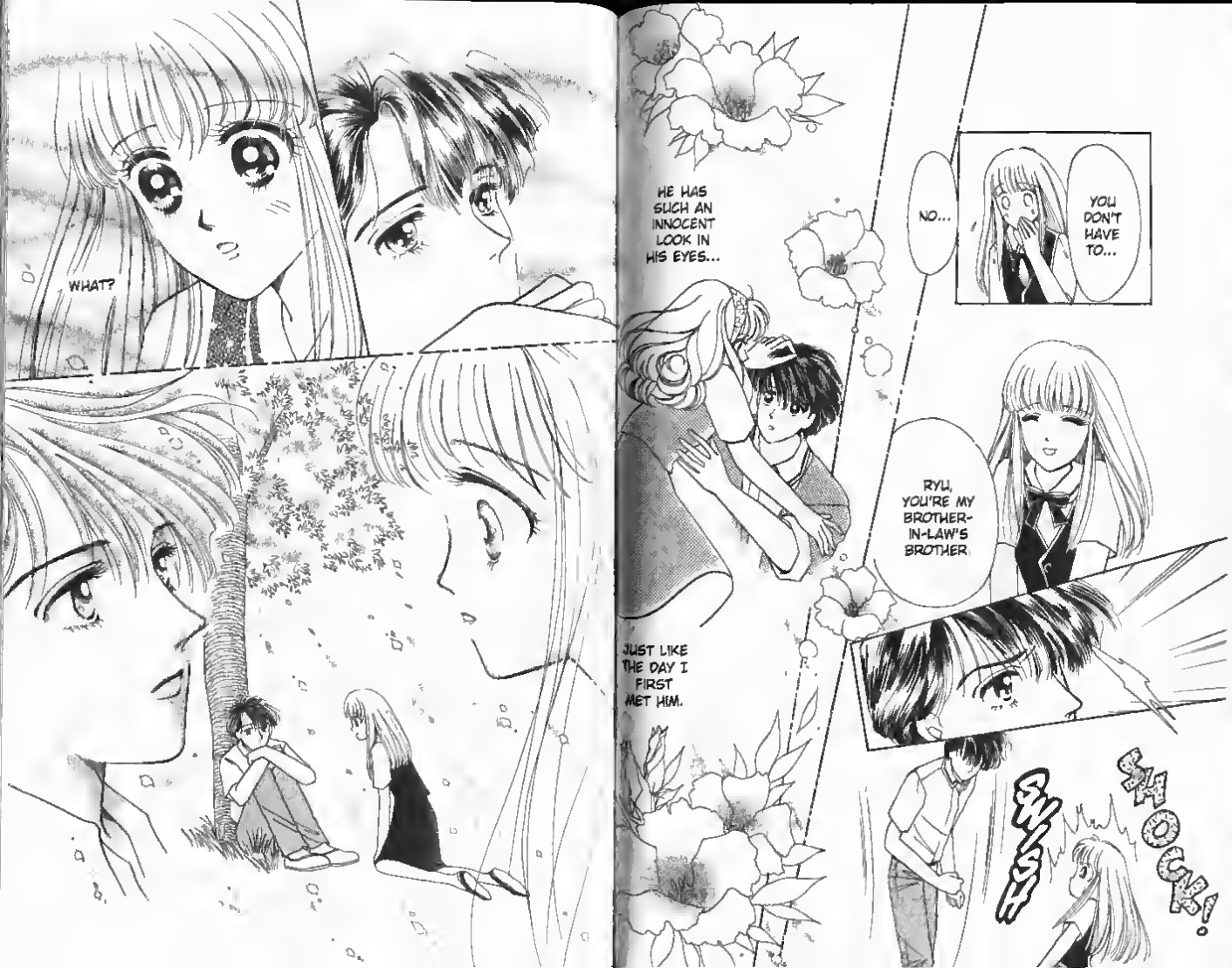
UMM.. NEVER MIND.
IF MAKI SAYS SHE LIKES YO...
IT'S ALL SO COMPLI-CATED.
I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I SHOULD HAVE ASKED HIM WHICH CLASS HE'S IN.
UMM
OH, IT'S YOU.
UMM IS RYU IN THIS CLASS?

YEAH, BUT AFTER HE EATS LUNCH, HE ALWAYS NAPS IN THE COURTYARD.
Tok Tok Tok
HE'S AT SCHOOL!
THANK YOU.
RYU!

GRIN
WHAT?
YOU'RE WEARING YOUR SCHOOL UNIFORM.
DID YOU GO BACK HOME THIS MORNING?
HUH? YEAH.
WHAT'S UP? I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE'S SMILING AT ME.
!

WHAT?! OH... YOU!
I DIDN'T RECOGNIZE YOU.
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HAIR? YOUR ROYALLY-ROLLED LOCKS?
WHAT? AS SOON AS HE RECOGNIZED ME, HIS ATTITUDE CHANGED.
WHATEVER. ANYWAY, I'M GLAD YOU WENT HOME.
LAST NIGHT, I SAID SOMETHING THAT REALLY UPSET YOU.
I'M SORRY
I WAS SO WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
DON'T WORRY.
I WAS OUT OF LINE TOO.


WHAT?
HE HAS SUCH AN INNOCENT LOOK IN HIS EYES...
JUST LIKE THE DAY I FIRST MET HIM.
NO...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO...
RYU, YOU'RE MY BROTHER-IN-LAW'S BROTHER.
SHOCK!
SWISH

DID... DID I SAY SOMETHING WRONG AGAIN?
drip drip
OH, NO. WHAT SHOULD I DO?
SIGH
MAKO, YOU SAY THAT--
--MY BROTHER IS YOUR IDEAL MAN.
AREN'T YOU JEALOUS OF YOUR SISTER?

NO NOT AT ALL!!
WHAT I MEAN BY MY IDEAL MAN IS--
--THAT MY BROTHER-IN-LAW, YOUR BROTHER, IS ALWAYS BY MY SISTER'S SIDE AND IS ALWAYS TAKING CARE OF HER.
I USED TO WATCH THEM FROM A TREE WHEN I WAS A KID.
YOUR BROTHER ALWAYS CALLED MY SISTER "PRINCESS."
AND I'VE ALWAYS HOPED I COULD FIND A MAN JUST LIKE HIM.

I... I HATE--
--MY BROTHER!
I GOTTA GO.
I'LL BE LATE AGAIN TONIGHT, SO DON'T WAIT UP OR WORRY, OK?
Welcome Back!
We're Here
WELCOME HOME, MAKO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE HATES HIS BROTHER.
MOM, RYU WILL BE HOME LATE TODAY.
REALLY? IT'S A GOOD THING HE CAME HOME THIS MORNING.
He was probably late for school though
WHAT? I THOUGHT WE COULD HAVE DINNER TOGETHER.
I GUESS HE HATES ME.
THIS IS ANOTHER SMALL AD THAT TOMOKO RAN IN THE ORIGINAL JAPANESE VERSION OF CALL ME PRINCESS FOR ANOTHER ONE OF HER COMICS, POPCORN ROMANCE, AVAILABLE NOW FROM CPM MANGA.
PRAIRIE DOG

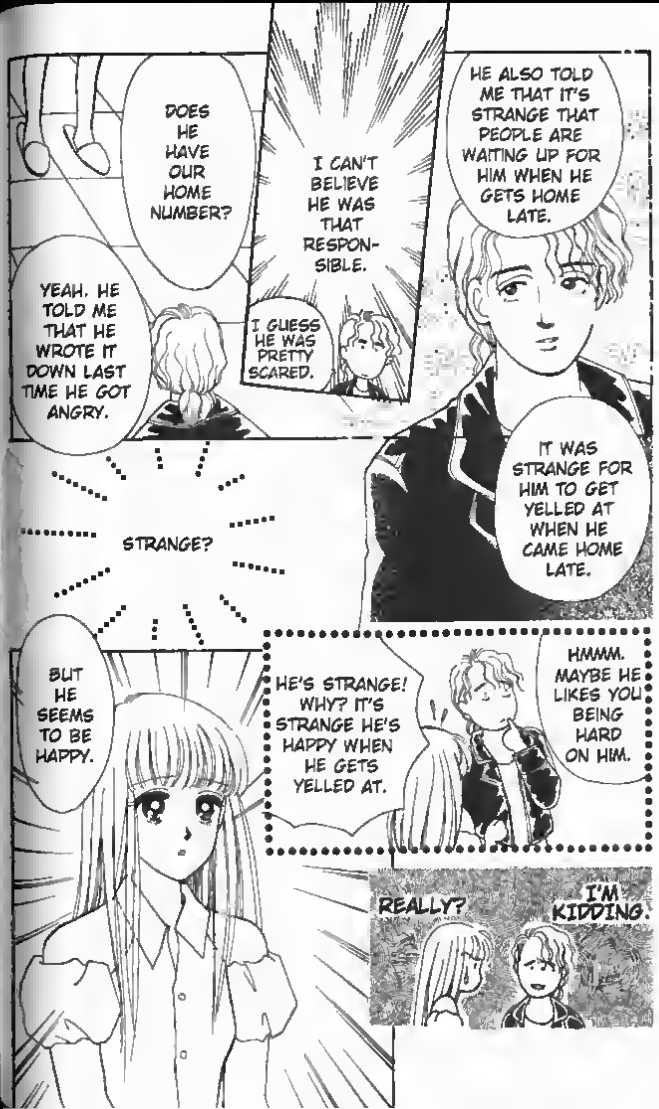
KNOCK! KNOCK!
MAKO, CAN I COME IN?
YEAH.
I'M SORRY ABOUT RYU HE'S VERY DIFFICULT.
UUMM ...
I can't agree with them
--I COULDN'T STAND STAYING WITH MY PARENTS, WHO WERE GETTING WORSE EVERYDAY.
I WANTED TO PROVE TO MYSELF THAT I WOULDN'T BE LIKE THEM.
THE REASON I GOT MARRIED WHEN I WAS JUST 19 YEARS OLD WAS--
BUT RYU WAS TOO YOUNG TO MAKE ANY DECISIONS OR GET OUT.
HE WAS TAKEN IN BY MY MOTHER, BUT I GUESS MY MOTHER DIDN'T TAKE VERY GOOD CARE OF HIM.
IT WAS TOUGH FOR ALL OF US, BUT RYU HAD A REALLY TOUGH TIME.
BUT IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT.
I WAS WITH SHOKO BUT HE HAD NOBODY AT THAT TIME.
MAYBE HE'S A BIT OF A BURDEN ON YOU BUT PLEASE UNDERSTAND.
I HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR SISTER SO...
HE WAS STILL A KID.
OH, SHIN..

I UNDERSTAND WHY HE'S TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF MY SISTER.
HOW BEAUTIFUL!
I THINK SOMEDAY, WHEN HE FINDS A GIRLFRIEND--
--HE'LL REALLY CARE FOR HER AND FINALLY BE HAPPY.
HE DOESN'T WANT TO BE LIKE HIS PARENTS.
D...DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
Ugh!
Will he?
HE REALLY CARES ABOUT MY SISTER AND TREASURES HER.
grr-rr-ring!! Brr-r-r-ring!!
HELLO?
HI, I'M A FRIEND OF RYU'S
WHAT?! RYU'S BEEN HURT?! I UNDERSTAND.
WHICH HOSPITAL? I'LL BE RIGHT THERE.
Yes I know Sukanchi Hospital
I'LL GO. WHERE'S THAT HOSPITAL?
I KNOW WHERE IT IS. I'LL GO WITH YOU.
HE'S HURT?!
MAYBE IT IS TRUE THAT HE GETS INTO FIGHTS WITH STUDENTS FROM OTHER SCHOOLS?
SUKANCHI HOSPITAL

DAZE
RYU!!
HUH?
HE'S GOT A FEW BRUISES AND CUTS BUT HE DIDN'T BREAK ANY BONES.
HE'S A LITTLE DIZZY BECAUSE HE HIT HIS HEAD.

THE DOCTOR SAID HE SHOULD COME BACK IN A FEW DAYS TO HAVE HIS HEAD EXAMINED.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
THANKS, PON.
IT'S COOL.
This is Pon
SWAY
JUMP!
YOU'RE LUCKY YOU HAVE SOMEBODY TO PICK YOU UP NOW.
HUH?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU, RYU?
HE FELL OFF A MOTOR-CYCLE.

MOTOR-CYCLE!?
OUR FRIEND DOES MOTOR-CROSS.
WE'VE BEEN PRACTICING, BORROWING HIS BIKE...
RYU'S A BIT RECKLESS THOUGH. HE'S ALWAYS GETTING HURT.
We're fine now because we wear helmets and protective gear though
Pon-Chan, don't... I have no energy I can't even talk
--NOT FROM FIGHTING.
OOOOUCH
No! Not my left side
SO ALL THOSE CUTS HE'S HAD WERE--
HEY, LET'S GO HOME. CAN YOU WALK?


DOES HE HAVE OUR HOME NUMBER?
I CAN'T BELIEVE HE WAS THAT RESPON-SIBLE.
HE ALSO TOLD ME THAT IT'S STRANGE THAT PEOPLE ARE WAITING UP FOR HIM WHEN HE GETS HOME LATE.
YEAH. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WROTE IT DOWN LAST TIME HE GOT ANGRY.
I GUESS HE WAS PRETTY SCARED.
IT WAS STRANGE FOR HIM TO GET YELLED AT WHEN HE CAME HOME LATE.
STRANGE?
BUT HE SEEMS TO BE HAPPY.
HE'S STRANGE! WHY? IT'S STRANGE HE'S HAPPY WHEN HE GETS YELLED AT.
HMMM. MAYBE HE LIKES YOU BEING HARD ON HIM.
REALLY?
I'M KIDDING.

IT'S REALLY STRANGE... THAT HE SEEMED TO BE HAPPY...
Are you all right?
HE LOOKS VERY WEAK. BUT IT'S CUTE THAT HE'S SO RESPONSIBLE.
IT WOULD BE FINE IF HE WAS ALWAYS LIKE THIS
HE'S WITH HIS BROTHER WHOM HE HATES.
RYU DOES TURN TO HIM FOR HELP.
MAKO! CAN YOU GO FOOD SHOPPING?
WHAT'S ON THIS LIST? ALL OF THIS?
IT'S THE LAST NIGHT THEY'LL BE HAVING DINNER WITH US.
DO YOU WANT ME TO GO WITH YOU?
YOU'RE HURT.
I'M FINE. I CAN CARRY THE SHOPPING BAGS.
Even though I'm hurt, I'm stronger than you.
OK. I'M GOING TO BUY THREE WATERMELONS.
HEY!
ARUKOSHI FOODS
WHAT'S HAPPENED TO HIM? HE'S BECOME PRETTY HELPFUL.
This one?
No, the one on the right.

YOUR MOTHER SEEMS VERY ENTHUSI-ASTIC TODAY.
SHE FEELS LONELY BECAUSE THEY'LL BE LEAVING SOON
RYU...

MY MOM'S TRYING TO DO EVERY-THING SHE CAN FOR YOU.
SHE HASN'T MADE ANY OF MY FAVORITE FOODS, BUT SHE DOES FOR YOU

HERE YOU GO.
OH, NO. WE BOUGHT ALL THIS?
MARUKOSHI

YOU SAID YOU'RE STRONGER THAN ME EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE INJURED.
SEE, IT'S A GOOD THING I CAME WITH YOU. YOU COULDN'T CARRY ALL THIS.

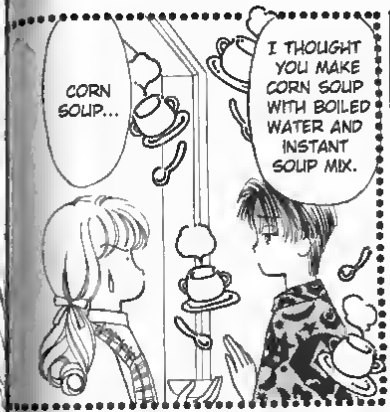
hee hee

HE'S STILL NOT COMPLETELY HONEST BUT--
Are you OK?
Ugh... my left hand hurts a little
MARUKOSHI
MARUKOSHI
--THERE'S SOMETHING DIFFERENT.

MAKOTO! DO YOU HAVE A MINUTE?
YO!
I'LL SEE YOU AT HOME.
CLink!
I'M SORRY THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN TALKING TO YOU AT SCHOOL.
CAN WE GO BACK TO HOW WE USED TO BE?
I... I JUST REALLY LIKE YOU, MAKO.
THAT'S ALL IT IS.
OK.
THANKS.

I FEEL SORRY FOR RYU. HE LOOKS LIKE YOUR SERVANT.
WHAT? SHUT UP! HE WANTED TO COME WITH ME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT? THERE'S NOTHING BETWEEN US.
BUT I STILL WORRY ABOUT YOU AND RYU.
BUT YOU SEEM HAPPY TOGETHER.
YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE A MARRIED COUPLE.
NO... NO WAY! I HATE HIM!
I DON'T THINK HE'S SUCH A BAD PERSON.
MARRIED COUPLE??
IS THAT TRUE?
THEN YOU SHOULD BE HIS GIRL-FRIEND.
See you later.
What're you talking about?
I'M GLAD HE'S BACK TO HIS OLD SELF.
NOW WE CAN BE--
--EVEN BETTER FRIENDS THAN WE USED TO BE.
BUT AS FOR THE PERSON WHO I WANT TO CALL ME 'PRINCESS'...

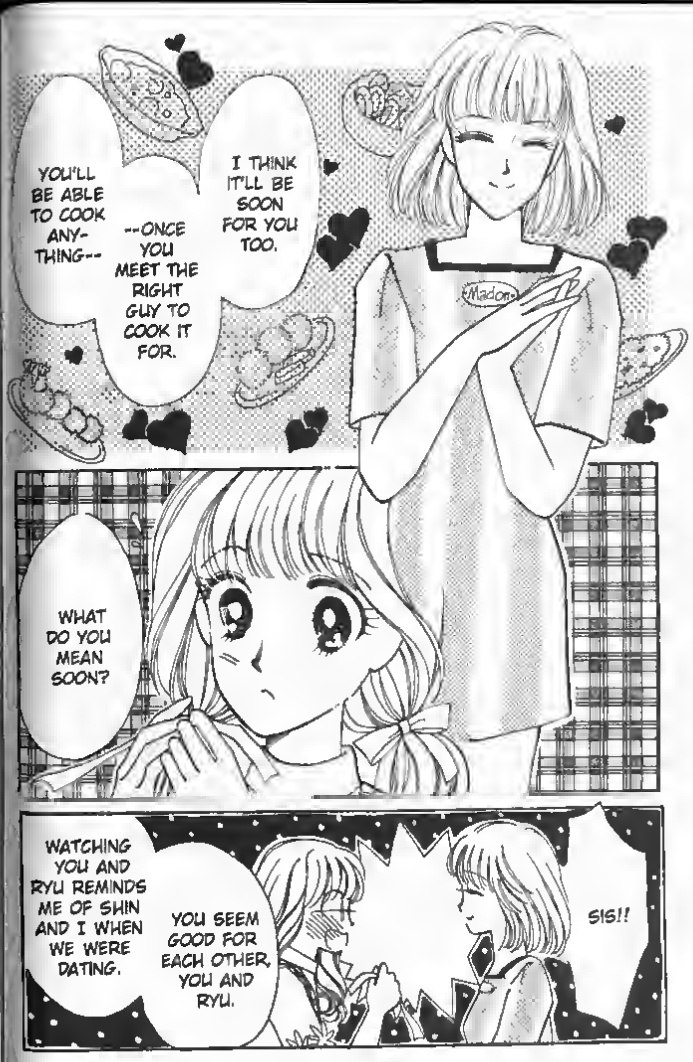
ARE YOU WAITING FOR ME?
MAYBE...
I said I would carry it. I was resting so it's fine now
MY LEFT HAND HURTS I WAS RESTING.
MARUKOSHI
MARUKOSHI



OMAKE 4.

HELLO, READERS. PLEASE ENJOY THESE SKETCHES!

ISN'T IT? ISN'T IT?!
MORE!
No. Just a taste for now
SO I SEE YOU CAN STILL ONLY MAKE CORN SOUP.
HOW RUDE! AND HERE I SLAVE AWAY MAKING THIS JUST FOR YOU GUYS...
Whish!
Can you help my mom set the table?


YOU'LL BE ABLE TO COOK ANY-THING--
--ONCE YOU MEET THE RIGHT GUY TO COOK IT FOR.
I THINK IT'LL BE SOON FOR YOU TOO.
Madoka
WHAT DO YOU MEAN SOON?
WATCHING YOU AND RYU REMINDS ME OF SHIN AND I WHEN WE WERE DATING.
YOU SEEM GOOD FOR EACH OTHER, YOU AND RYU.
SIS!!

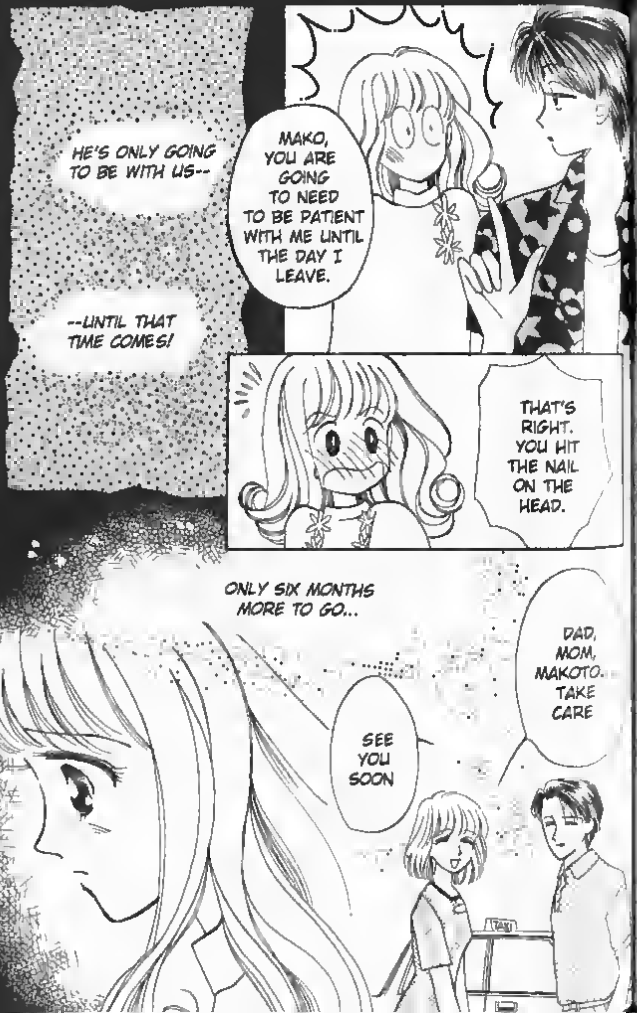
RYU! LOOK WHAT I FOUND!
WHAT? THAT'S...
WH.. WHY?
Huh? What's that?
FLIP FLIP
Motocross Magazine
GARR
Reader's Letters Page
GARR
I HEARD YOU WERE INTO MOTOR-CROSS, SO I WAS READING IT AT THE BOOK STORE.
THEN I FOUND THIS.
ST... STOP!!

PON-CHAN SENT THAT IN!!
IT LOOKS GOOD! THIS IS GREAT!!
This is me and Ryu (left) who gets hurt! We can't race ehe. We train a lot. We're also looking for girlfriends
K-city, Pon-Chan
HE LOOKS VERY HAPPY IN THE PICTURE.
I DIDN'T KNOW RYU SMILED SO MUCH.
BUT NEVER IN FRONT OF ME OR SHIN.
"LOOKING FOR GIRL-FRIENDS?"
I JUST TOLD YOU.. PON-CHAN WROTE IT.

OMAKE 5.

HERE'S SOME MORE FOR YOU...

ENJOY!

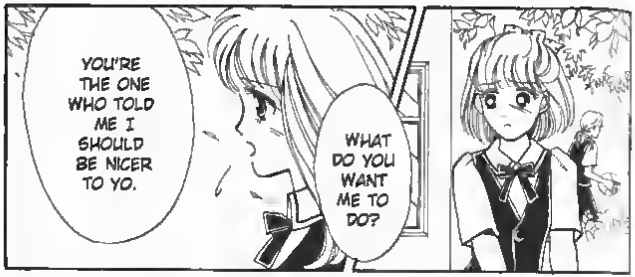

HE'S ONLY GOING TO BE WITH US--
--UNTIL THAT TIME COMES!
MAKO, YOU ARE GOING TO NEED TO BE PATIENT WITH ME UNTIL THE DAY I LEAVE.
THAT'S RIGHT. YOU HIT THE NAIL ON THE HEAD.
ONLY SIX MONTHS MORE TO GO...
DAD, MOM, MAKOTO. TAKE CARE
SEE YOU SOON

THEY'VE BEEN SMILING EVER SINCE THEY GOT MARRIED TEN YEARS AGO.
CAN I BE HAPPY LIKE THEM SOMEDAY?
OH, NO. WHY DID RYU'S FACE SUDDENLY POP UP?
NO WAY!!
?

Teach me math today, ok?
Me? I don't know if I can teach
GOOD MORNING, MAKOTO.
MORNING, MAKI.
SEE YA.
YOU'VE GOTTEN REALLY CLOSE WITH RYU.
YEAH, I KNOW. HE'S NOT A BAD GUY LIKE THE RUMORS MAKE HIM OUT.
I THINK HE'S A NICE GUY, JUST LIKE HIS BROTHER.

MAKOTO, CAN YOU LEND ME YOUR ENGLISH NOTES?
Makoto, you might...
REALLY? HE'S A NICE GUY LIKE HIS BROTHER?
THAT'S QUITE A COMPLIMENT.
Yeah, it is
ALL RIGHT. BUT WILL YOU BUY ME SOMETHING ON THE WAY HOME?
WHAT? ALL RIGHT, I'LL GET YOU A CHICKEN SANDWICH AND A SHAKE.
hehehe, sounds good to me.
here you go.

MAKI, YO'S BUYING SAND-WICHES.
ARE YOU COMING?
YEAH.
WHAT?! FOR TWO?
BOOK
HEY, DOES TAKAYAMA LIKE YOU, MAKOTO?
HUH? I DON'T KNOW.
YOU TOLD ME HE JUST LIVES IN THE SAME NEIGHBORHOOD, BUT--
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
--YOU GUYS ARE PRETTY CLOSE, AREN'T YOU.
WHAT'S WRONG WITH THAT? WE'RE GOOD FRIENDS.
MAKI...
YOU SEEM PRETTY CLOSE TO RYU AS WELL.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT TO YO.


YOU'RE THE ONE WHO TOLD ME I SHOULD BE NICER TO YO.
WHAT DO YOU WANT ME TO DO?

I CAN'T STAND IT THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO BE NICE TO BOTH OF THEM.
MAKI.
IF YOU LIKE YO, WHY DON'T YOU TELL HIM?

I CAN'T TELL HIM!!
I HATE YOU, MAKOTO !!

YOU'RE TRYING TO BE NICE TO BOTH OF THEM.
I CAN'T STAND IT.
WHEN SHE PUTS IT LIKE THAT ..
I MEAN, YO IS A GOOD FRIEND.
BUT I WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH RYU, TOO.
MAKOTO, DINNER IS READY.
NOT HUNGRY

MAKI...
HELLO
WE'VE BEEN SUCH GOOD FRIENDS--
--SINCE THAT SPRING WHEN WE WERE PUT IN THE SAME CLASS TOGETHER.
MAKO?
GGGRRR
YEAH?
He caught me again.

ARE YOU ON A DIET? MAKO, YOU DON'T NEED TO.
NO, I'M NOT.
I GOT INTO A FIGHT WITH ONE OF MY FRIENDS.
Really?
BUT I REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG.
...
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T MEAN TO--
--MAYBE WHAT YOU DID UPSET HER.

MAYBE IT'S REALLY NO BIG DEAL TO YOU--
--BUT IT MIGHT BE PRETTY IMPORTANT TO HER.
YOU GUYS ARE FRIENDS, RIGHT?
YOU SHOULD TALK TO HER.
RYU...
YOU'RE RIGHT. I WILL.

NOW, LET'S HAVE DINNER.
OK.
IS PON-CHAN YOUR BEST FRIEND?
YEAH.
HAVE YOU EVER FOUGHT WITH HIM?
ALWAYS. BUT WE GET OVER IT. THAT'S WHAT FRIENDS DO.

WE UNDER-STAND EACH OTHER.
I TRUST HIM.
THANK YOU, RYU.
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE STRANGE EATING DINNER ALONE.
RYU HAS ALWAYS HAD THE SUPPORT OF--

-- SUCH A TRUSTED FRIEND.
OH, MAKI. GOOD MORNING.
Tap!!
IS THAT THE GIRL YOU'RE FIGHTING WITH?
YEAH.
DON'T GIVE UP. TRY AGAIN.

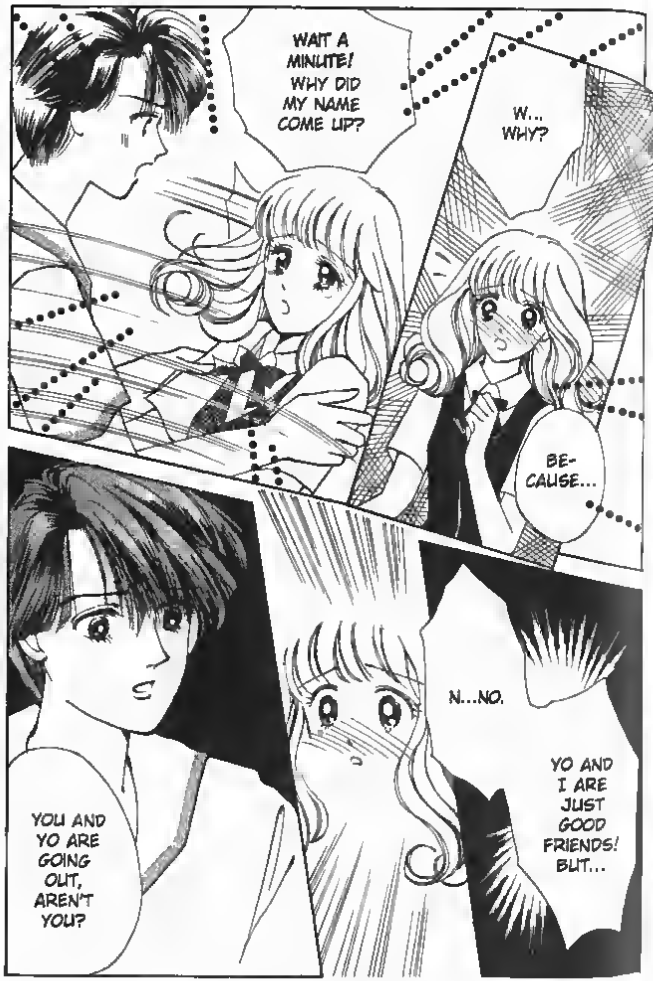
SOMEDAY HE'LL FIND A GIRL--
--WHO HE'LL TAKE CARE OF AND BE HAPPY WITH.
WHAT SHIN TOLD ME MIGHT BE TRUE AFTER ALL.
MAKI...
ARE MAKI AND MAKOTO FIGHTING?
YEAH, AND I KNOW WHY. IT'S OVER TAKAYAMA.
Shish!
MAKOTO IS DATING TAKAYAMA AND SOME SENIOR GUY AT THE SAME TIME
WHAT?! IS SHE REALLY?
MAKI LIKES TAKAYAMA SO...
NO...
IS THAT WHAT MAKI'S BEEN TELLING EVERYONE ABOUT ME?
IT CAN'T BE...
NO. IT'S NOT TRUE.
MAKI WOULDN'T DO THAT.

YOU SHOULD TRUST HER.
TOK TOK TOK
huff... puff...

RYU...
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO DO?
MAKO...?

WHAT HAPPENED? IS THIS ABOUT YOUR FRIEND?
WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH THIS GIRL?

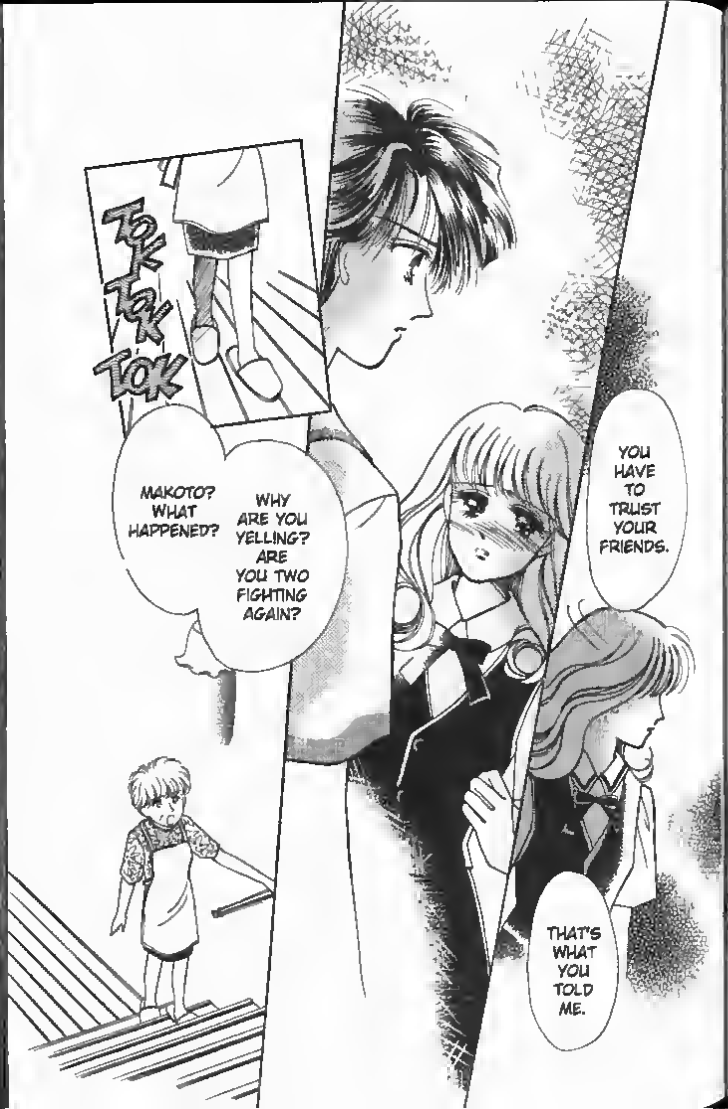
GRAB!
Brush
M... MAKI LIKES YO.
BUT YO LIKES ME AND...
YO AND I HAVE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE KIDS.
I LIKE HIM AS A FRIEND.
BUT MAKI IS SAYING THAT I SHOULDN'T BE SO NICE TO BOTH YO AND YOU.

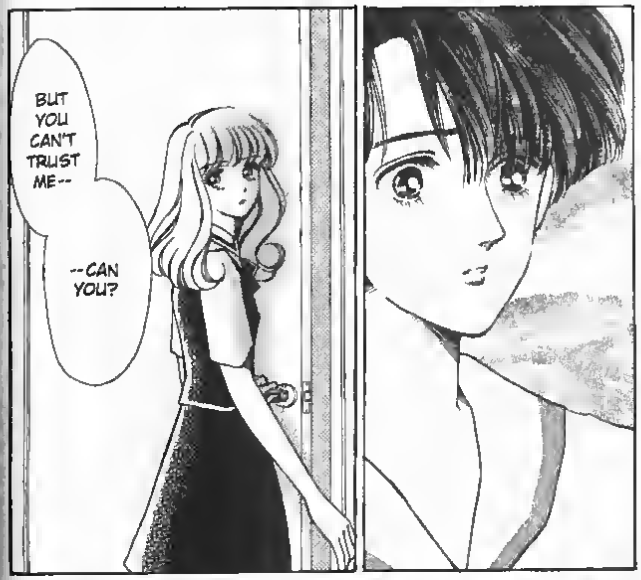

WAIT A MINUTE! WHY DID MY NAME COME UP?
W... WHY?
BE-CAUSE...
N...NO.
YO AND I ARE JUST GOOD FRIENDS! BUT...
YOU AND YO ARE GOING OUT, AREN'T YOU?

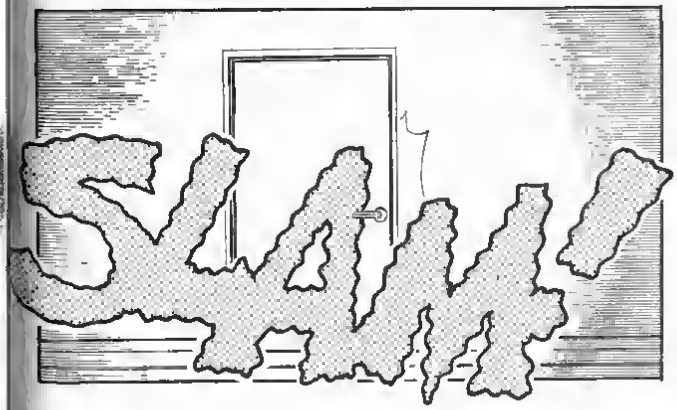
RYU...
YOU'RE SO DIFFERENT FROM YO.
IT'S A DIFFERENT KIND OF FEELING.
WHAT I'M TRYING TO SAY IS--
--YOU'RE NOT JUST A FRIEND, BUT...

I DON'T--
...BELIEVE IT!
I LOOK JUST LIKE MY BROTHER.
I THINK YOU'RE CONFUSED.
THAT'S WHY YOU THINK OF ME THAT WAY.

THAT'S NOT IT!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME BECAUSE I'M THE SISTER-IN-LAW OF THE BROTHER YOU HATE.
FROM THE BEGINNING, IT'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS WITH YOU. YOU'RE NICE TO OTHER GIRLS.
YOU WERE NICE TO ME WHEN YOU DIDN'T KNOW WHO I WAS.
BUT THAT'S NOT MY FAULT!!


TOK TOK TOK
MAKOTO? WHAT HAPPENED?
WHY ARE YOU YELLING? ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING AGAIN?
YOU HAVE TO TRUST YOUR FRIENDS.
THAT'S WHAT YOU TOLD ME.


BUT YOU CAN'T TRUST ME--
--CAN YOU?


SLAM!

HE'S ONLY A FEW ROOMS AWAY. ONLY A FEW DOORS
BUT WHY DO I FEEL HE'S SO VERY FAR AWAY?

MAKOTO, DINNER'S READY.
I DON'T FEEL LIKE EATING.
AGAIN? ARE YOU SURE?
OK, RYU, LET'S START.

IS THERE NO CHANCE--
--FOR ME TO BE HIS GIRLFRIEND?
RYU, MY HUSBAND AND I ARE TALKING ABOUT GOING OUT FOR DINNER THIS SUNDAY.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
UMM... I CAN'T GO THIS SUNDAY.
REALLY? YOU ALREADY HAVE PLANS?

You are?!
WELL... I'M GOING TO A MOTOR-CYCLE RACE...
I'M THINKING ABOUT BUYING A MOTOR-CYCLE. IS THERE ROOM FOR IT HERE?
Y...YES, OF COURSE. BUT...
Flip Flop
HONEY, RYU WANTS TO BUY A MOTORCYCLE. WHAT DO YOU THINK?
I'M WORRIED THEY'LL RIDE AROUND ALL NIGHT MAKING NOISE AND STIRRING UP A RACKET.
NO, THEY WON'T. NOW YOU'RE STEREO-TYPING THEM, DEAR.

RYU GOT INTO ANOTHER FIGHT WITH MAKOTO.
I WONDER IF THEY'LL EVER GET ALONG?
DON'T YOU THINK SHIN SHOULD HAVE TAKEN HIM BACK TO HAWAII?
OH, MAKOTO...
CAN YOU GO TO THIS RACE ON SUNDAY AND SEE WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT?
WHAT?! WHY DO I HAVE TO GO?
I'M WORRIED RYU'S INVOLVED WITH A BAD CROWD. AND IT MIGHT BE DANGEROUS FOR HIM TO BE IN THAT RACE, SO..
HEY, DO YOU THINK SHE'LL BE OK GOING BY HERSELF?

Oh, you're right. I didn't think about that
I KNOW THEY'RE NOT BAD KIDS.
ALL RIGHT. I'LL GO.
THAT'S WHAT I TOLD THEM, BUT--
I'M GOING. BYE!
--I CAN'T ASK RYU TO TAKE ME TO THE RACE WITH HIM

MORN-
ING...
MAKI IS STILL THE SAME.
SIGH

MAKI, YOU'RE ALONE?
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN WITH MAKOTO MUCH THESE DAYS.
ARE YOU TWO FIGHTING?
YOU WORRY ABOUT MAKOTO A LOT.
YOU LIKE HER, DON'T YOU?

HAVE YOU TOLD MAKOTO YOU LIKE HER?
YEAH, KIND OF. BUT WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE WE WERE KIDS, AND--
--SHE'S HAVING A GOOD TIME WITH RYU THESE DAYS.
I'M GLAD I TOLD HER HOW I FELT THOUGH.
WHY!? I THINK IT'S TERRIBLE.
YOU TELL SOMEONE HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THEM--
--BUT THEY LIKE SOMEONE ELSE.
THERE'S NOTHING THERE FOR YOU.
IT'S JUST SO SAD.

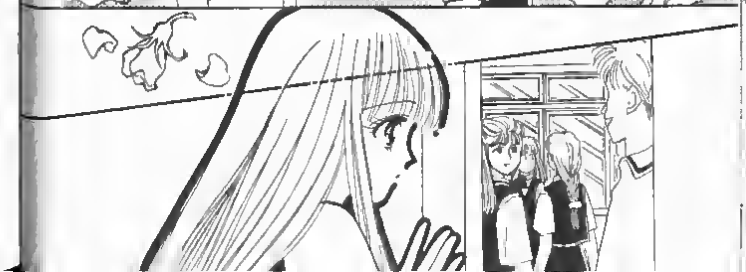
DO YOU REALLY THINK SO?
THAT'S SUCH A GREAT WAY OF LOOKING AT IT.
SURE, MAYBE YOU TELL SOMEONE JUST HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THEM AND END UP DIS-APPOINTED.
BUT ISN'T THAT BETTER THAN DOING NOTHING AT ALL?
UMM...
WHY ARE YOU FIGHTING WITH HER?

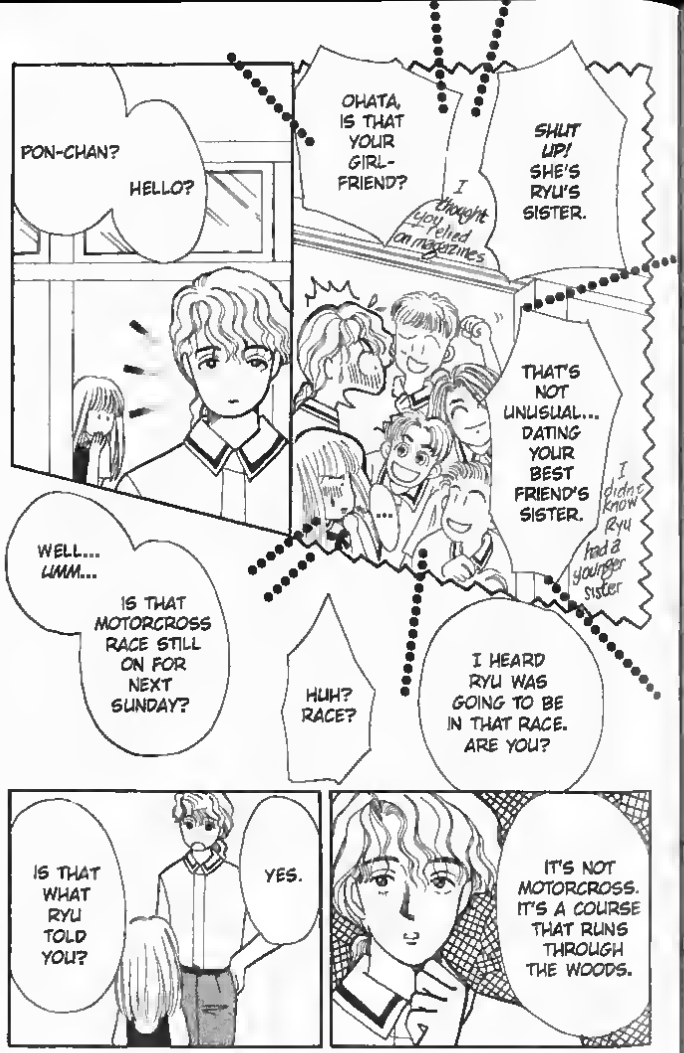
BECAUSE I LIKE--
--YOU.

WHAT? YOU'RE JOKING!? AM I REALLY THAT HAND-SOME?
SORRY. I'M SORRY FOR MAKING FUN OF YOU.

THAT'S WHY I'M MAD AT MAKOTO. I'M JEALOUS.
SHE'S SO CLOSE WITH BOTH YOU AND RYU.

MAKOTO REALLY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG BUT...
I SEE. SO...
MAKI, DON'T YOU THINK WE CAN BECOME CLOSE TOO?
HOW ABOUT IT?




PON-CHAN?
HELLO?
OHATA, IS THAT YOUR GIRL-FRIEND?
I thought you relied on magazines
SHUT UP! SHE'S RYU'S SISTER.
THAT'S NOT UNUSUAL... DATING YOUR BEST FRIEND'S SISTER.
I didn't know Ryu had a younger sister
WELL... UMM... IS THAT MOTORCROSS RACE STILL ON FOR NEXT SUNDAY?
HUH? RACE?
I HEARD RYU WAS GOING TO BE IN THAT RACE. ARE YOU?
IS THAT WHAT RYU TOLD YOU?
YES.
IT'S NOT MOTORCROSS. IT'S A COURSE THAT RUNS THROUGH THE WOODS.

UMM... CAN YOU TAKE ME TO THE RACE ON SUNDAY?
BUT DON'T TELL RYU THAT I'M GOING.
WHY? IS IT SECRET?
DO YOU THINK HE'S THE KIND OF PERSON WHO WOULD TAKE ME TO A RACE?
NOT REALLY.
IT'S COOL. I'M GOING IN MY FRIEND'S CAR. DO YOU WANT TO RIDE WITH US?
YES. THANK YOU.
WAIT A SEC. CAR? PON-CHAN'S NOT GOING TO BE IN THE RACE?

MAKOTO! LET'S WALK HOME TOGETHER.
WITH MAKI!

NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE SAY ABOUT ME--
--I'LL ALWAYS TRUST MAKI.
BECAUSE WHATEVER HAPPENS, WE CAN ALWAYS SMILE ABOUT IT TOGETHER LATER.
I NOW BELIEVE WHAT RYU TOLD ME IS TRUE.

MAKOTO, YOU'RE LATE!
RYU WENT OUT FOR A RIDE ON HIS NEW MOTORCYCLE.
What am I gonna do with you?
HE WON'T BE HOME 'TIL LATE?
I THINK SO. HE LOOKED SO HAPPY ON HIS NEW MOTOR-CYCLE.
MAYBE HE DOESN'T WANT TO SEE ME.
I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE CURLING MY HAIR THE NEXT DAY.

SUNDAY.
HEY, MAKO. WE'RE HERE
IS THIS HIS ..?
SWIS
FLAP
huh?
I'M GOING. BYE.
IT STAYED THAT WAY FOR A FEW DAYS.

THE RACE IS GONNA BE HELD ON THIS MOUNTAIN?
I should have brought mosquito spray.
WHEN WE RACE OFF-ROAD, IT'S ON COURSES LIKE THESE.
BUT TODAY'S NOT A RACE.
VROOOOOM
BLAH BLAH

OH, THERE HE IS. RYU!!
WHOA! THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE HERE.
WHERE'S RYU?
EDDIE
PON-CHAN..
WHAT?!?!
MAKO?!

PON-CHAN!!
WHY!?
IT'S NO BIG DEAL, RIGHT!?
HELLO, EVERYONE. WE'RE GOING TO START SHORTLY.
I'D LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR COMING OUT FOR MOUNTAIN CLEAN UP RUN!
WE'LL BE GIVING YOU ALL YOUR GARBAGE CHECK-LISTS. I WANT YOU TO CHECK OFF EVERY PIECE OF GARBAGE YOU PICK UP.
HUH?
THIS IS...
MOUNTAIN CLEAN UP RUN?!
YEAH!
IF YOU'RE RIDING YOUR MOTORCYCLE TODAY, PLEASE CLEAN THE AREA FROM THE MIDDLE OF THE MOUNTAIN UP TO THE TOP. THOSE ON FOOT, PLEASE BEGIN HERE AT THE FOOT OF THE MOUNTAIN AND WORK YOUR WAY UP TO THE MIDDLE.
LET'S START THE CLEAN UP!!
HEY, MAKO. YOU WEAR THIS AND GO CLEAN UP WITH RYU.
YOU'RE PRETTY PREPARED, PON-CHAN, YOU PLANNED THIS-- -- DIDN'T YOU?
ALL RIGHT GET ON!
Is she OK in those clothes?

HOLD ON TIGHT, OR ELSE YOU'LL FALL OFF.
OH, NO. HOLD HIM?! I CAN'T DO THAT.
I'm scared, but happy!
What are you doing?
VROOM
YIKES!
EEEEE!

HA HA HA
WHY DID YOU TELL US IT WAS A RACE?
I WAS TOO EMBARRASSED TO TELL YOU I WAS GOING TO PICK UP TRASH.
REALLY?

I usually rent motorcycles for motor cross
I'M NOT GOOD ENOUGH TO RACE YET.
THIS IS REALLY THE ONLY THING I CAN DO FOR NOW.
IT'S NOTHING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT!!
RYU, YOU'RE SO COOL TO BE DOING THIS.
THIS IS SO COOL !!
HEY, DON'T MAKE SUCH A BIG DEAL ABOUT IT.
It's just cleaning
What?
Peeeet
She's so lucky
LET'S GO TO THE OTHER SIDE.
I want a girlfriend, too
She's cheering him on
OOPS! I SHOULD BE CLEANING UP TOO.
Look at all the dirty clothes
SPLASH!
SPLASH
OOOPS!!

OH, NO. USE THESE GLOVES.
IT'S GOOD THAT I BROUGHT WET NAPS.
AIEEE!
THERE'S A WORM!
IT'S NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT.
PRINCESS, WHY DON'T YOU JUST CHECK THE LIST?
Please
WHAT?
HE JUST--
--HE JUST CALLED ME "PRINCESS!!"

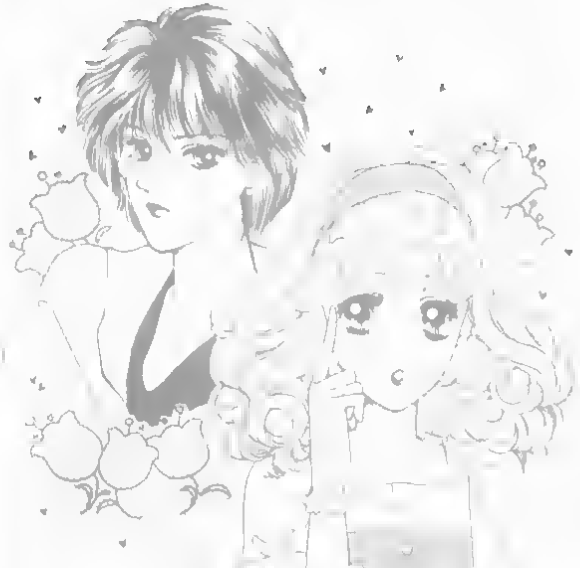
WHAT'S THIS LIST FOR?
THERE'S AN ORGANIZATION THAT SURVEYS THESE KINDS OF THINGS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION REASONS.
CANS
BOTT
CIGA
HUH?
I SEE.
Check off one empty can and two cigarette butts.
THIS IS GREAT! I WANT TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE.
ENOUGH ALREADY.
I'M SERIOUS.
WHY CAN'T YOU BELIEVE ANY OF THE THINGS I SAY?
Hug

ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
TO BE HONEST, IT'S NOT THAT I DON'T TRUST OR BELIEVE YOU
IT'S JUST...
I'M SORRY. I FORGOT TO GIVE YOU YOUR GLOVES BACK.
--I'LL GROW UP TO BECOME JUST LIKE MY PARENTS--
--WHO ENDED UP HATING EACH OTHER.
MY PARENTS' BLOOD RUNS THROUGH MY VEINS,
SO I ALWAYS WORRY THAT--
THE PERSON I DON'T TRUST IS ME. I DON'T BELIEVE IN MYSELF.
SHIN TOLD ME THAT HE'LL NEVER GROW UP TO BE LIKE HIS PARENTS.
THEY'RE TOO DIFFERENT.
peel!
You came prepared
I made lunch, too

SOMEDAY YOU'LL LEARN TO TRUST YOURSELF.
BUT UNTIL THAT DAY COMES--
--CAN YOU AT LEAST TRUST ME?
BUT IF YOU FIGHT WITH ME TOO MUCH--
--MY PARENTS WILL KICK YOU OUT!

THAT WOULD BE A PROBLEM.
I GUESS I CAN'T ARGUE WITH THE PRINCESS ANYMORE
LOOK AT ALL THE GARBAGE OVER THERE
MAYBE SOMEDAY WE'LL BE ABLE TO TRUST EACH OTHER--
--IF WE'RE TOGETHER LONG ENOUGH
YIKES!
YUP!

About Tomoko Taniguchi



Tomoko was born in Hokkaidō, the northernmost part of Japan. She spent one year in Ann Arbor studying English and she graduated from the English Institute program at the University of Michigan.

When she returned to Japan she entered a contest held by a monthly horror magazine that was looking for new cartoonists. She submitted a forty-page story and won first prize. It was her debut as a professional cartoonist.

Her first shoujo story, *AN-PAN-BALANCE*, won another contest and was published in the monthly magazine *OMAJINAI COMICS*.

She has had a total of nine tankoubans (Japanese graphic novels) published under the MB (or My Birthday) Comics label in Japan, including *CALL ME PRINCESS*, *AQUARIUM*, *PRINCESS PRINCE* and *LET'S STAY TOGETHER FOREVER*. Tomoko has been published in Japan, Korea, Taiwan, the U.S.A. and Mexico.

Tomoko hopes that her stories will make people feel happy because that makes her happy too.

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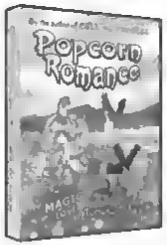

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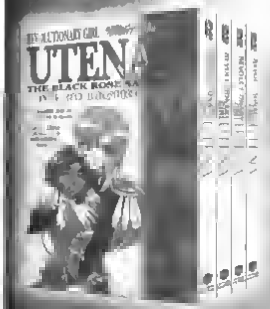

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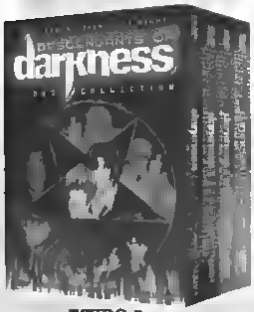

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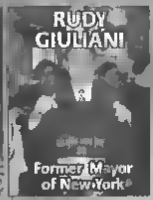

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